

Iran urges pressure on Israel

TEHRAN (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Saturday that Britain and the United States should press Israel to release Arab prisoners as a step towards freeing Western hostages in Lebanon. Velayati said that he had so far been unable to broker the release of the 13 Westerners missing in Lebanon. "If we want this problem solved, the problem of all hostages, including the hostages held by the Zionist regime, must be solved," Mr. Velayati said. "Iran alone cannot solve this problem." He added: "Israel is under the deep influence of Washington and London, and it is the United States and Britain which should put an end to the hostage issue." Most of the missing Westerners are believed held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian militants. They are six Americans, four Britons, two Germans and an Italian. Iran and kidnapping factions have urged Western countries to put pressure on Israel to free some 400 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners to facilitate the release of the hostages. Most of the Arab prisoners are held in Israel's self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Kuwait trials delayed

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — The "collaboration" cases being transferred from the discontinued martial law courts to the state security courts will not be heard for at least a week, lawyers and attorneys said Saturday. There were 24 defendants in court Saturday faced with charges ranging from joining Iraq's Popular Army, a civilian militia, to stealing cars. When no judges appeared, the prisoners were taken out of the courtroom back to jail. Judge Mohammad Ben Naji, one of the main judges in the martial law courts active from May 19 to the expiration of martial law last Wednesday, said the administrative work of transferring the cases would take a week to 10 days, he said. He believed 200 cases had either been postponed after the initial arraignment or yet to be heard at all and would probably take two months to work through. Crown Prince Saad Abdullah Al Sabah on Wednesday commuted all 29 death sentences handed down by the martial law courts to life imprisonment, which usually means 25 years in Kuwait, he affirmed the sentences against dozens of other convicted collaborators, some ranging up to 25 years.

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Dumas due in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas was due to arrive here late Saturday for talks on new approaches to Middle East peace if U.S. efforts for a settlement fail. Mr. Dumas told a local newspaper that France supports Washington's peace efforts, which are aimed at calling a regional peace conference under U.S. and Soviet sponsorship. But Mr. Dumas also said there should be a role for the United Nations. "We support America's peace efforts," Mr. Dumas said in the interview, conducted in Paris before his departure. He said U.S. participation in the process "is very vital" to getting a dialogue between Arabs and Israelis. "If, unfortunately, this is not achieved, we must at that point return to other ideas and means because a lasting deadlock would be intolerable," he said.

Nathan meets Arafat again

TUNIS (R) — Israeli pacifist Abie Nathan, jailed last year for meeting Yasser Arafat, held talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (P.L.O.) chairman again on Saturday and said they would have more discussions on Sunday. Mr. Nathan, saying he will pay any price to break down distrust between Israelis and Palestinians, described his meeting as "very refreshing." Mr. Nathan has been leading a campaign against an Israeli law that forbids contact with any member of the P.L.O. He spent 122 days in jail in 1990 for previous meetings with Mr. Arafat. Early this month he ended a 40-day hunger strike to promote Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. "I am prepared to pay any price for breaking this law because no law can stop people talking peace," he said.

EC offers to pay for U.N. force

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — European Community (EC) leaders on Saturday offered to subsidise until the end of the year the cost of deploying a United Nations force to protect Kurds in northern Iraq. In a summit communiqué, the community leaders also condemned what they said were Iraqi attempts to hide nuclear materials from U.N. inspectors and said sanctions must continue. The U.N. force of 500 guards is supposed to take over from U.S., British, French and Dutch troops deployed in northern Iraq. There was no immediate estimate from community officials of the cost of subsidising the U.N. operation. The leaders said the U.N. should be "deployed as rapidly as possible. To facilitate this deployment, the European Council (summit) undertakes to meet the uncovered expenses of the operation between now and the end of the year."

Queen Elizabeth visits N. Ireland

LISBURN, Northern Ireland (AP) — Queen Elizabeth, making her first visit to Northern Ireland since 1977, on Saturday helped the work of a British army regiment. Roads were blocked and security was intense as the monarch arrived in this southern suburb of Belfast to salute the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR), a locally raised and largely part-time force. The UDR, the largest and youngest regiment in the British army, has been a frequent target of Irish Republican Army attacks. It enjoys strong support from Northern Ireland's Protestant majority but is widely distrusted by Roman Catholics.

Elections held in Azad Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Votes in Pakistan-held Kashmir were cast Saturday in an election seen as a preliminary test for former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's party. But a 30-minute shooting spree by Indian troops trying to crush a violent secessionist uprising in Indian-held Kashmir temporarily interrupted voting at three polling stations near the border, according to the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan.

U.N. mission due in Iraq amid U.S. threats

Combined agency dispatches

A UNITED NATIONS mission backed by threats of U.S. military action, headed for Baghdad on Saturday to insist Iraq hand over nuclear-related equipment to inspectors.

A Bush administration source rated "better than 50-50" the chance of U.S. military attacks on Iraqi nuclear plants unless they were opened to inspection.

The U.N. Security Council warned Baghdad: "Any recurrence of non-compliance would have serious consequences."

U.N. inspectors said Iraqi troops fired warning shots into the air when they tried to photograph loaded vehicles scurrying away from a base at Fallujah, southeast of Baghdad, Friday.

The Iraqi News Agency denied shots had been fired.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein told officials to cooperate fully with the U.N. inspection team.

President George Bush insisted Saturday that Iraq allow the U.N. inspectors to search for nuclear weapons equipment in Iraq.

Speaking with reporters, Mr. Bush accused Iraq of "cheating and lying" and said he was dubious of Iraq's assertion that it would cooperate with U.N. observers.

Mr. Bush again did not rule out renewing military action against Iraq to eliminate nuclear weapons fabrication equipment missed during the war. But he said he prefers a diplomatic solution to the standoff.

"You've already seen a worldwide reaction against this," Mr. Bush said.

On Friday, the president angrily denounced the alleged incident in which Iraqi soldiers fired shots into

the air to drive away the U.N. inspectors.

On Saturday, Mr. Bush, who is spending the weekend at his family vacation home, said: "It's very disturbing (Iraq) must comply with the United Nations resolutions. This concept of going in there and lying and shooting in the air to scare international observers is just something that cannot be condoned."

"We've got plenty of time to think everything over and have a concerted international effort," Mr. Bush said.

"You have to do certain things and we're taking the steps."

He said he hoped to hold "immediate consultations" at the United Nations would lead to a solution to the problem. "Don't press me on what I'll do beyond that," he added.

Mr. Bush clearly did not rule out a military option. He noted that the United Nations had already approved the use of "all means necessary" to enforce the ceasefire.

The Defence Department has reportedly been preparing military contingencies. About 50,000 U.S. troops are still in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and aboard warships in the area.

Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, in the most explicit threat of possible new U.S. military action, said Saturday that "we're going to... solve this issue, one way or another."

He said he did not think renewed war would break out but said Iraq's nuclear pursuits must definitely be dealt with.

"There's clearly no question we're going to have to solve this issue, one way or the other," he said in a television interview.

"You will recall that the Security Council resolutions on this subject still apply and they do not rule out the use of force. It's an issue that it going to have to be settled," he said.

A U.S. administration official told Reuters after President Bush had met top military advisers: "I think there's

a pretty good chance we'll do something but it hasn't been decided yet."

The Washington Post said 24 of the 42 radar evading Stealth planes — the type which carried out precision bombing raids on Baghdad during the war — were still there.

At the United Nations, both Soviet Ambassador Yuri Voronov and French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Memmesie said they believed the matter could be solved without resorting to force.

Under the terms of the ceasefire resolution, Iraq must provide details of its chemical, biological, ballistic and nuclear weapons so material can be removed or destroyed. The lifting of a trade blockade hinges on compliance.

The Security Council decided in an emergency session late on Friday to send its own high-level mission to Baghdad to demand assurances from Iraq.

Late Friday, President Saddam Hussein issued a directive ordering Iraqi officials to allow U.N. inspectors to see what they wished "without hesitation," the Information Ministry said. The government has denied any cheating on disclosure.

Told Saturday of the reported directive, David Kay, deputy leader of the U.N. inspection team in Baghdad, responded:

"I wish they'd had that order yesterday. That's the kind of order that should have been issued in the first place under the Security Council resolution."

The inspection team said Hans Blix, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), was scheduled to arrive in Baghdad on Sunday for talks on the team's problems. Mr. Blix is to be accompanied by U.N. Undersecretary-General Yasushi Akashi and Rolf Ekus, chairman of

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Kurds seek more from government

SARAWA, Iraq (Agencies) — Kurdish parties are demanding more concessions from the Iraqi government saying an Iraqi proposal on autonomy for northern Iraq does not include a big enough area and has other unacceptable conditions. Kurdish leaders said.

Massoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Front, an umbrella group of eight major Kurdish parties, said he would return to Baghdad for further negotiations.

Mr. Barzani had said after talks in Baghdad earlier this month that an autonomy accord was imminent. But on Friday, he said: "It still needs further discussion."

"We will tell the Iraqis that the preconditions are unacceptable," said Jalal Talabani, leader of the second-biggest group in the front, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

The eight parties met separately Saturday to discuss their own alterations to the proposal. The Kurdistan Front leadership will meet again on Sunday to discuss a final draft and when and

with whom Mr. Barzani will go to Baghdad for new talks.

"In my view, this will be the last round of our talks," Mr. Barzani said in an interview at his home, a heavily guarded compound in the mountains of guerrilla-held northeastern Iraq.

"We will give the subject as much time as it needs, but we will not deliberately stall the talks," he said that Baghdad had been advised that the negotiations will continue.

Mr. Barzani, leader of the dominant Kurdistan Democratic Party, said the main problem was that the proposal excluded several Kurdish areas — oil-rich Kirkuk among them — from the autonomous region.

Other areas still demanded by the Kurds include Mandali, Sinjar, Zimar and Khaniqin.

But members of the Kurdistan Front have also rejected Iraqi preconditions under which the Kurds would have to side with the

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Benjedid seen pushing democracy in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — President Chadli Benjedid's resignation from the party that won independence from France, was welcomed Saturday as a further step to democracy in a country torn by fundamentalist violence.

Sporadic gunfire was heard in the capital overnight but there was none of the heavy shooting of the previous night when mass curfew violations pitted security forces against Islamic militants.

Most of the shooting appeared to come from Belcourt, an Islamic stronghold. There were no reports of casualties. On Friday the army said three people were killed and 10 wounded in the previous night's battles.

Mr. Benjedid's decision to stand down was disclosed at a meeting of the National Liberation Front (FLN) central committee which was trying to set policy to defeat its main rival, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), in general elections due this year.

"This step is welcome because it puts a symbolic end to the system of a single party," the newspaper Le Quotidien d'Algérie said.

"The resignation announcement, after the creation of a non-partisan government, achieves the necessary total neutrality of the state as one of the essential conditions to intensify the democratic process."

One diplomat commented: "It carries one step further the divorce between the state and the party."

Some commentators said the decision would strengthen Mr. Benjedid's position as head of state, putting him above party politics as "president of all Algerians."

It would also free the party from ties to the state which had given it little real power but alienated some Algerians.

"The resignation... should enable the FLN, now a party like any other, to reorganise... without being any more responsible than any other party for the situation in the country," the

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Israeli settler killed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The body of an Israeli settler was found in the boot of his car in a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank Saturday.

The army and police are not certain the attacker was Palestinian, but curfews were clamped on Palestinian villages in the area and several Palestinians were detained for questioning. Israeli army radio and military sources said.

The settler, Avi Osher, left his home in the Bakua farm settlement Friday morning to cultivate his palm tree field near the neighbouring Massua settlement, eight kilometres from the demarcation line with Jordan.

Zvika, a Bakua resident, told Israeli army radio that when Osher failed to return by early Saturday the settlement notified the army and started a search.

Zvika said they found Osher's small van quickly and discovered his body inside.

In the past week there have been several violent incidents in the West Bank. On Tuesday, a Palestinian taxi driver said an Israeli driver shot and wounded one of his passengers while they were driving through the West Bank.

In the West Bank city of Hebron Wednesday, a Jewish settler from the settlement of Kiryat Arba was stabbed and moderately wounded by a Palestinian.

On Thursday, Jewish settlers armed with M 16s and Uzi sub-machine guns raided the West Bank village of Beit Emrin, smashing windows and furniture and burning cars.

In one of the bloodiest rounds this year of the Palestinian uprising, four Palestinians were killed on Friday night and Saturday.

Some 100,000 Jewish settlers, many of them armed, live in fortified enclaves in the occupied territories.

Palestinian sources said Israeli soldiers killed 15-year-old Saqer Nassam during clashes on Friday night in Mughair village near Ramallah.

In the Gaza Strip's squalid Shati refugee camp, Hassan Hamad, 28, died when a bomb he was

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MINISTERS SWORN IN: Two ministers who were abroad when the new government of Prime Minister Taher Al Masri was formed earlier this month were Saturday sworn in before His Majesty King Hussein at the Royal Court. Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour (photo on left) and Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb were sworn in in the presence of Prime



Minister Taher Al Masri and Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. Also sworn in before the King at the Royal Court was Haidar Mahmoud, who has been appointed ambassador to Tunisia. Mr. Ensour is a member of the National Bloc in the Lower House of Parliament while Mr. Abul Ragheb belongs to the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance.

Slovenia pours cold water on EC plan

LJUBLJANA Yugoslavia (Agencies) — Breakaway Slovenia refused to participate in electing a new Yugoslav head of state Saturday, blocking the rapid implementation of a European Community (EC) sponsored peace accord.

The small Alpine republic, which declared independence Tuesday, boycotted a hastily-summoned meeting of Yugoslavia's collective presidency to appoint a new head of state and end a six-week deadlock between the rival republics.

Slovenian President Milan Kucan earlier vowed that the northern republic, which lies on

the borders of Italy, Austria and Hungary, would never become part of Yugoslavia again.

"I can see no democratic way through which Slovenia can be part of Yugoslavia. It can only be annexed," he told a news conference.

Mr. Kucan and his Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel said they told a three-man EC mission bluntly Friday night that Slovenia could never turn back from independence because Slovenians had died for the cause.

They were speaking a day after a shaky ceasefire went into effect

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Baker not expected to visit Mideast soon

CAIRO (Agencies) — A U.S. congressman said Saturday that he did not expect Secretary of State James Baker to come to the Middle East soon to resume his Arab-Israeli peace shuttle.

Congressman Wayne Owens said Washington was awaiting a reply from Syrian president Hafez Al Assad to a recent message from president George Bush on the peace process before deciding the next move.

Mr. Owens, a Democrat from Utah, said he was on a seven-country regional tour including Israel and Jordan partly to "try to cement the peace process."

He spoke to reporters after

meeting with president Hosni Mubarak.

Asked when Mr. Baker would resume his shuttle diplomacy, Mr. Owens replied: "I don't believe that you will see Secretary Baker here right away."

"We are waiting for an answer to President Bush's letter from president Assad. We are very anxious to hear what he will say."

Mr. Bush's letter was reported to have offered compromise ideas about a regional peace conference that Mr. Baker has been trying to organise.

Mr. Baker visited the Middle

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New Horizons For Innovative Services

Jordan, Egypt discuss inter-Arab relations

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Nabih Al Nimer held talks here with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amer Mousa and said later that discussions covered inter-Arab relations and current efforts to bring about a comprehensive reconciliation among Arab countries following rifts caused by the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Nimer said he conducted a general review with the Egyptian minister, focusing on means of restoring strong ties between Amman and Cairo following the exchange of messages and telephone calls between His Majesty King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak. These contacts, he said, have paved the way for a re-summation of close cooperation and coordination between Jordan and Egypt.

Mr. Nimer said he had exchanged views with Mr. Mousa on developments in the Arab and international arenas and on the Middle East peace process, as well as on obstacles Israel continues to lay in the path of peace.

At the meeting, the ambassador called for further coordination among various Arab parties directly involved in the Palestine and Middle East questions with a view to reaching a unified Arab stand, Mr. Nimer said.

"Jordan considers solidarity among Arab states as one important factor in its inter-Arab strategy and looks forward to an end to rifts among Arab states," Mr. Nimer said.

Mr. Nimer added that he had made it clear that Jordan remained committed to national causes and would continue to participate in joint Arab action designed to serve the national interests.



Minister of Interior Jawdat Esboul (second right) Saturday holds a meeting with visiting Secretary General of the Arab Interior Ministers Council Akram Ibrahim in the presence of Mr. Salameh Hamad, secretary general of the Interior Ministry (right), and Fadel Ali Fuhed (second left), director general of the Public Security Department (Petra photo)

Jordan considers pan-Arab security as an extension of its own security — Esboul

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan strongly supports collective Arab action and will continue to extend backing to Arab League organisations which aim at enhancing inter-Arab cooperation in various fields, Interior Minister Jawdat Esboul said in a statement Saturday.

Speaking after a meeting here with visiting Secretary General of the Arab Interior Ministers Council, Dr. Akram Ibrahim, the Interior Minister said that the minister's council was one of the important elements that contribute to joint Arab action because it addresses matters related to internal security in Arab countries.

Mr. Esboul said that Jordan would continue to strongly support measures and means that can ensure the success of this institution.

Jordan considers pan-Arab security as an extension of its own security and pan-Arab security can only be ensured through intensified efforts and close coordination among Arab countries, Mr. Esboul said.

Referring to the meeting with Dr. Ibrahim, Mr. Esboul said they had discussed means of promoting the council's activities and organising a meeting this year. A meeting was originally scheduled last year but was not held because of the Gulf crisis, he said.

Dr. Ibrahim, who is currently on a tour of Arab states, hopes to fix a date and venue for the council's meeting, which Mr. Esboul described as a very positive step on the road towards

restoring joint Arab action and "to breathe life into Arab League institutions."

Dr. Ibrahim discussed the council's meeting in detail with Mr. Esboul and preliminary agreement was reached on holding the meeting in December. Jordan has provided a positive reply to the question of participation in the coming council's meeting and all activities designed to promote joint action by Arab countries, Dr. Ibrahim said.

Furthermore, Dr. Ibrahim said agreement was reached on holding the 15th conference for Arab police chiefs in September and on Jordan participating in the conference. Dr. Ibrahim said contacts with various Arab countries were underway to prepare for both meetings.

Officials, residents of northern Zarqa complain of heavy pollution

By Fares Sharaan
Petra

AMMAN — Three districts in northern Zarqa city, namely Al Hashemeh, Sukhneh and Duleil are permanently polluted by fumes rising from factories, especially the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company installations and Al Hussein Thermal Power Station. Bad smell from the local waste water treatment plant hangs over the area too.

Northern Zarqa city abounds with factories and poultry and dairy farms and is inhabited by some 150,000 people who are prone to a number of diseases because of the fumes, the insects infesting the three districts and the very bad smell, according to local physicians.

Dr. Hamedan Ziyad, from Al Hashemeh, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the pollution had caused the spread of a number of diseases, especially lung and skin allergies to the elderly.

Waste water leaking from the treatment plant has caused severe

cases of dysentery, Dr. Ziyad said. Furthermore, his clinic was visited by at least 25 people with typhoid resulting from the polluted water and air, he said. Dr. Ziyad added that there was growing danger to public health from the fumes and the contaminated atmosphere.

Another doctor, Mohammad Hazameh, who is also director of the local health centre in Hashemeh, told Petra that a growing number of people have recently complained of respiratory problems and difficulty in breathing as well as asthma resulting from inhaling the fumes that belch out of the chimneys installed by the petroleum refinery. Dr. Hazameh said that the waste water leaking from the treatment plant and heading towards the King Talal Dam serves as a breeding area for mosquitoes, flies and other insects which have been infesting the region and causing the spread of disease.

Aggravating the problem for residents in the eastern parts of the affected areas, the highway linking Amman with Irbid and

Jerash is now congested with traffic because the original road is closed for repair, local people were quoted as saying.

They said that the people of northern Zarqa, Um Sleih, Graisa, Zenia, Khirbet Al Samra, Mazraa, Duleil, Al Khaledieh, Al Hashemeh and Al Sukneh as well as the free zone of Zarqa were all severely affected by the fumes and the contaminated atmosphere.

Recently the number of people complaining about various types of diseases has increased, especially in the eastern part of the district which is closer to the refinery, Dr. Ziyad said.

Mayor of Sukneh Taha Arselan said that the contaminated atmosphere was a fertile climate for insects. The municipality would like to maintain continued spraying campaigns with insecticides. But lack of funds prevent it from conducting such a programme.

Furthermore, Mr. Arselan said, the municipality lacks a proper dumping site for the refuse. This, and lack of sufficient

drinking water aggravate the residents' problems even more.

The mayor of Duleil, Karim Awadat, said that the bad smell forces the residents to go out into the fields and away from their homes in the summer season. The Duleil area abounds with cattle farms and dairies which also give off bad smells, harmful to the public health, he said.

Refinery Director General Saad Al Tal admitted that the fumes were harmful to the public health but said that workers and technicians were doing all they could to reduce the effects on people by installing modern equipment and strictly abiding by public health requirements.

Residents of the three regions said that since Amman's sewage problem was solved at their expense when the Khirbet Al Samra treatment plant was created in their midst, the capital's residents should contribute to the solution of their problem. They demanded that the factories whose fumes continue to plague the region should also make a contribution towards permanent solutions.

RJ, Air Lanka agree to operate joint services

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian, the national air carrier, and Air Lanka, the Sri Lankan airline, have agreed to operate joint services starting July 17 by conducting twice weekly flights between Amman and Colombo.

An RJ statement here Saturday said that a joint service agreement was concluded by the two airlines on June 14, paving the way for a joint service to be operated under the RJ/UL call-sign on Wednesdays and Fridays by RJ's Airbus 310.

This service will open new scopes of air travel between Sri Lanka and Jordan, the Arab World, the Middle East, north Africa, western and southern Europe, U.S. and Canada, the RJ statement said.

Up to now passengers from Jordan and the surrounding countries had to travel to Sri Lanka using more than one airline and making an overnight stop in the Gulf region.

According to the statement, the service is assured success by the joint marketing to be conducted by both airlines and thanks to the connections provided in Amman by RJ and in Colombo by UL.

On June 17, RJ resumed its flights to Beirut with four flights per week.

RJ's Director General Husam Abu Ghazaleh said that the resumption of the flights to the Lebanese capital underlined RJ's determination to go ahead with plans to open new routes, according to the airline's carefully prepared plans.

He said that RJ was now at the threshold of a new era of activities and operations and would utilise all its planes to move ahead and remain among the most active airlines in the region.

Organisation to help Jordan to preserve the environment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) is to take active participation in the preparation of a national environment strategy for the Kingdom to help protect the environment and to initiate projects for the achievement of that goal.

The announcement was made by a IUCN representative, Mr. F. Fernando, and Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Salim Al Zoubi.

Mr. Zoubi had a detailed discussion of the steps taken so far in the preparation of the strategy in the presence of ministry officials and technicians.

Mr. Zoubi said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that his team would give due concern and attention to the national strategy as the ministry intensifies its efforts to safeguard the environment.

Protection of the environment, the minister said, was one of the

directives contained in His Majesty King Hussein's letter of designation to the new government.

Work will continue on the national strategy, in cooperation with other concerned departments, with the help of the IUCN and financing from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the minister said.

USAID pledged in 1989 to provide the ministry with \$383,000 to help it finance the project for which the government has allocated JD 69,000.

Mr. Fernando, director of IUCN's Asia and the Pacific Bureaus, discussed the details of the national strategy with the minister and Dr. Mohammad Bani Hani, the ministry secretary general.

According to Petra, the two sides agreed on involving IUCN in drawing up the general document for the national strategy

within the framework of various strategies for other countries of the world.

Mr. Fernando expressed the IUCN willingness to contribute to this important project which also includes enacting regulations for control of the environment and setting up special administrative body to oversee the implementation of the national strategy.

The Ministry and Rural Affairs and the Environment had said the strategy aimed at enabling the country to execute its socio-economic development projects and exploit natural resources safely.

The environment strategy, it said, provides measures for the protection of water resources, the soil and atmosphere, and aims at maintaining a natural balance and save the country from negative consequences as a result of its endeavours to exploit natural resources.

Dughmi warns employers who try to circumvent labour law

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour has discovered wrong information supplied by businessmen and companies in Jordan concerning non-Jordanian workers and local labourers and warned that such misleading information was punishable by law.

In a statement to Al Ra'i Arabic daily, Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Dughmi said that a number of companies and businesses had been found giving misleading information in application forms that were fed into the ministry's computers.



Abdul Karim Al Dughmi measures in courts, Mr. Dughmi said.

By comparing various sets of information the ministry has discovered it was conflicting and has asked those responsible to supply the ministry with correct information about the workers' status in their businesses or face legal

According to the minister, such misleading information was intended partly to reduce the fees and other charges to be paid by the concerned companies for employees or to avoid paying for work permits required for the non-Jordanians employed in the country.

"Unless these companies provide fresh and correct information, the Ministry of Labour has no alternative but to refer the case to the public prosecutor," warned the minister.

He said the Ministry of Labour was hoping that employers would cooperate with the ministry so as to reorganise the local labour market and help reduce the problem of unemployment which assumes priority on the new government's agenda.

Transport company to be established

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet has approved the establishment of a Jordanian share-holding company to transport goods by air to other countries, according to a report published by Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday.

The report said the company would be given priority in transporting Jordanian agricultural products aboard leased aircraft to Europe, the United States and

Asian countries. The company was officially registered at the Ministry of Trade and Industry after the concerned authorities conducted feasibility studies, the report said.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Premier thanks citizens

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Taher Al Masri Saturday issued a statement of appreciation to citizens who congratulated him on forming the new government. "In my own name and on behalf of my colleagues, the ministers, I express my deep appreciation and gratitude to the members of the public and various delegations who extended their congratulations to the new Cabinet," the prime minister said. Mr. Masri expressed hope that he and his colleagues would shoulder their responsibility and serve their King and countrymen.

Cabinet approves appointments

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet approved in a session held Saturday the appointment of Mr. Issa Al Omari as governor at the Ministry of Interior and the appointment of Mr. Nassouh Mubieddin as director general of the General Passports and Civil Registration Department.

Jordan, Syria discuss health cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi received Saturday in his office Syrian Ambassador to Jordan Majid Abu Saleh and discussed with him Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in health fields and ways to enhance it. Mr. Abu Saleh extended an invitation to Dr. Abbadi to take part in a seminar on "Arab Health Strategy," to be held in Damascus in the period July 14-15, 1991.

AYF to start youth programme

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Arab Youth Forum (AYF) Abdullah Kanaan said the AYF was planning to initiate a programme entitled "Face the Youth" in which the organisation would be hosting intellectuals, scholars and scientists in open dialogue with members of the forum. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Kanaan said the programme, which is implemented in accordance with the forum's objectives, aims at deepening the knowledge of the young generations. The programme, he said, does not define a certain topic for dialogue. The AYF's guest and audience will have freedom to address any topic related to the guest's specialisation and experience, he said.

Risheh gas to generate electricity

AMMAN (J.T.) — Studies have found that the natural gas reserve at Risheh field, in the south of Jordan, is no less than 400 billion cubic feet, according to Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Officials. Ministry sources said that natural gas production process had been developed with a view to using gas produced from Risheh to generate electricity. The same sources said that the gas produced from that field would help generate 13.3 per cent of the total electric power generated through the various Jordan Electricity Authority's power stations. The sources added that the government planned to increase the production capacity of Risheh power generation plant by moving two diesel-operated gas generation stations from south Amman to the Risheh area. The will operate by natural gas and by adding two new gas generation stations.

Omani women delegation in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — An Omani women delegation currently on a visit to Jordan Saturday called at the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) where it met with officials administering NHF's productive projects. The delegation was briefed on the activities of the "woman and development" programme which is carried out by the foundation and financed by the United Nations Population Fund. The delegation also visited the Zai rabbit production project carried out by NHF in Zai area in the Balqa Governorate.

Amman distributes books

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman municipality's library Saturday distributed 6,500 books to 150 cultural institutions, societies and schools in the Kingdom. A special ceremony for the distribution of the books was organised by Amman Municipality and attended by former Mayor and Minister of Transport and Communications Ali Suheimat. The books tackle social, cultural, scientific, political and military subjects.

Minister urges balanced agricultural produce pricing

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Subhi Al Qasem Saturday called on concerned authorities in Jordan to create a balance between the interests of farmers and those of consumers and underlined the need for pricing policies in Jordan.

"Pricing policies are of paramount importance because they are connected with production and consumption as well as the middlemen who market the agricultural products in Jordan and abroad," the minister said at the opening of a day-long seminar on agricultural pricing policies in Jordan.

The seminar was organised by the Ministry of Agriculture as part of a series of preparatory meetings for a general agricultural conference to be held in Amman in September of this year, according to ministry officials.

The seminar which was later chaired by Dr. Bassam Al Saket, discussed three working papers dealing with prices, as quoted by producers, prices for the consumers and the question of prices vis-a-vis the national economy.

The first paper dealt with prices fixed by producers and the participants recommended that the government give up subsidising agricultural products prices because production did not improve in river — irrigated or rain-fed regions.

The participants recommended that modern techniques be used



in the production of wheat in rain-fed regions. They also recommended cutting a margin of profits allowed to retail merchants.

The second paper, which tackled pricing food products for consumers, was reviewed considering food consumption in Jordan. The paper recommended that the government gradually reduce subsidies on food products, and help introduce a change in consumption habits.

The third paper dealt with prices versus the national economy and examined pricing policies and their relationship with the country's financial, monetary and taxation systems. Several agricultural experts, including Dr. Sami Sunnaa, Ministry of Agriculture secretary general, took part in the seminar.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Showqi Shokil, Mohammad Al Jalous and Rifqi Al Razzan at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.
- ★ Photo exhibition by Hans Richter at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ Poster exhibition at the British Council.
- ★ Ceramics exhibition by Margaret Tadros and Najwa Annab at the Spanish Cultural Centre between June 17-30.

VACANCY NOTICE No. 43/91

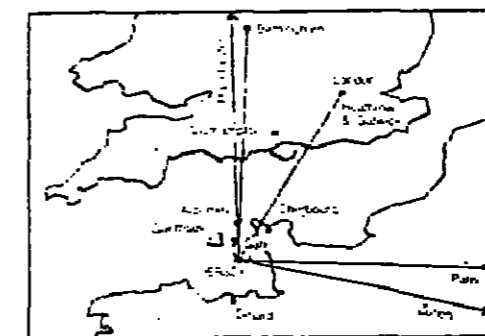
The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East announces a Vacancy of Secretary "B" Grade 09 at Salary of JD 249 400 fills at the Department of Administration — UNRWA Field Office Amman.

- Applicants should have:
- 1) A secondary education
 - 2) Successful completion of secretarial course of a minimum of two years duration with demonstrated ability to type in English accurately at 50 wpm, and to take shorthand accurately at a speed acceptable to the Field Administration Officer.
 - 3) Demonstrated ability in the effective use of Computer System applications.
 - 4) Four years secretarial experience.

Priority of appointment will be given to qualified Registered Palestinian Refugees and to internal candidates of the Agency. The Agency's Administration reserve the right to make no appointment if a suitable candidate cannot be found from among the applicants without giving reasons.

Interested qualified persons are required to complete an UNRWA application form obtainable from Jordan Field Office and other UNRWA Area Offices and return this to Field Personnel Officer and Deputy Field Administration Officer, Jordan — UNRWA, Field Office, Amman — near Arab College, opposite Rashid Tulei School, P.O. Box 484, Amman.

Dead-line for receiving applications is July 10, 1991.



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By Dr. Fahd Al Fanek

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Arab economies decline further in wake of Gulf war

EVEN before the eruption of the Gulf crisis, the economic situation of the Arab World was not in good shape. The food gap was around 50 per cent and increasing. The contribution of manufacturing industry was extremely low and stagnating. The external sector was subject to severe fluctuations. The ratio between exports and imports was declining. The terms of trade were worsening, and the deficit in Arab external trade was depleting the foreign reserves of most Arab countries. External indebtedness posed a heavy financial burden far beyond the capacity of the national economies to service.

The contribution of domestic savings in development was very humble and in some cases negative. Inter Arab trade accounted for less than seven per cent. Private inter Arab investment was negligible. Disbursements of Arab funds to finance development fell short of the pressing needs, and most of the economic growth was concentrated in short-term, fast-return services.

The Arab World's economy was very much exposed to uncontrollable external influences, such as the fluctuations in the international markets of oil and other primary commodities.

The European Community was the most important trade partner

of the Arab World. Some 40 per cent of Arab imports and exports came from, or went to Europe. Japan came second with 19 per cent of Arab export and 10 per cent of Arab imports. The 1992 planned unification of Europe in a single market may hurt Arab exports to Western Europe especially from the Arab Maghreb countries, while developments in East Europe and the Soviet Union may also have negative impact on the exports of other Mashreq Arab countries with strong economic ties with the old socialist bloc.

The Gulf crisis caused more deterioration to Arab economies. In one strike, Iraq's deterrent military force, industrial capacity, and social infrastructure were wiped out, while the financial wealth of the Gulf states was also depleted in financing the Gulf war.

Other negative consequences on the economic side are lower prices of oil for years to come, loss of jobs and shakeup of Arab expatriate labour market in the Gulf states and Iraq, especially for nationals of Yemen, Jordan and Palestine working in the Gulf, and Egyptians working in Iraq.

The decade of the nineties presented the Arab World with three

crucial challenges to cope with. Oil will no more play the major role as the engine for growth and prosperity. Water will not be sufficiently available to cater for the needs of civilian consumption, industry and irrigation. The food gap will continue to grow unless the current trend is reversed through proper development.

Economic development is the crucial challenge facing the Arab Nation for several reasons:

— Arab countries and peoples need modernisation to catch up with the advanced world economically, technologically and socially.

— Arab economies need diversification, as they depend on the production and export of a single material mainly oil or phosphate.

— The augmentation of the production capacity is needed to cope with one of the highest natural growth rates of population, in excess of 2.5 per cent.

— The Arab World is exposed to all kinds of external challenges on the economic, security, cultural and political levels from super economic powers like America and unified Europe as well as neighbouring countries such as Israel, Iran, Turkey and Ethiopia.

Cabinet submitting to vote: performance is the test

PRIME MINISTER Taher Masri's decision to seek a vote of confidence during the Lower House of Parliament's extraordinary session, which is expected soon, is a courageous and wise political act that sets a precedent for future governments to follow. Mr. Masri needs a simple 41 majority to win that vote and he appears confident about his chances since his government, although excluding the largest bloc in the House, the Muslim Brotherhood, groups most of the blocs in the House. But if the Brotherhood deputies decided to withhold their support and instead chose to form a bloc for an active opposition, then that might not be such a bad development after all. A democracy functions best when the government in office operates under the watchful eyes of a credible and active opposition. Normally, governments are not appointed or formed in order to appease the opposition. They are there usually to execute their own programmes and translate their own vision. With this in mind, Mr. Masri and his colleagues should be expected and encouraged to go about addressing the problems the country faces without wasting time on attempts to please every shade of political opinion in Parliament or the country at large. This should be done first by formulating a programme of action and then by presenting it to the House, according to traditional parliamentary rules.

The new Cabinet's mission is already expressed in no unclear terms in the King's letter of appointment. What needs to be done now is to be more specific about how this mission can be achieved, within a time element that is realistic and acceptable, and to submit the programme of action to deputies to debate and vote on. The initial negative reaction, to the formation of his government should not discourage Mr. Masri from being confident and forceful enough in pushing his programme through and in winning the majority. Nobody else has a total hold on the truth and there is certainly no group in the country that has a magic formula or a practical plan that can solve our problems for us.

In order for the country to face up to and remedy its economic woes, there is no alternative to the pursuit of those policies that can bring in investment, increase local production and ensure international and Arab aid. Reforms have to be introduced at all levels, bureaucracy has to be reduced and the private sector must be given its rightful chance to take a greater share of responsibility in the economic revival. Jordan should not regress in any of the political, economic or social fields. In this regard, appeasement, for the sake of consensus, is not a sound policy. Like half solutions, appeasement only hinders progress and true socio-economic development.

Once it establishes its foothold in Parliament, this government can choose to live as long as its fighting spirit endures. Much will depend on how perceptive, hard working and serious it is. In the final analyses, only by performance and achievements can this or any other government be judged.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily in an editorial Saturday discussed the present government of Prime Minister Taher Masri and said it was an extension to the former government in terms of political, economic and social orientations. The editorial, by Chief Editor Mahmoud Al Kayed who, along with editors of the local papers interviewed the prime minister Thursday, noted that the new council of ministers will be directing its attention to enhancing the national unity, deepening the concept of democracy through political pluralism and consolidating the state of law in all fields. The paper stressed that the Palestine question will remain the prime concern in Jordan's foreign policy in line with the royal directives and that the government will be open-minded vis-a-vis all bids designed to bring about a just and durable settlement to the Palestine question. The paper said that the present cabinet was in effect a coalition government representing all political, economic and social ideologies and various parliamentary blocks. The paper stressed the prime minister's views that the new government was not oriented towards rescinding Jordan's decision which severed ties with the occupied West Bank. In order to emphasise its position, the paper said, the government is keen now on securing a vote of confidence from the Lower House of Parliament.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily calls attention to the long queues of people awaiting means of transport to travel from Irbid to Amman and vice versa, and says that the queues do not appear only during weekends or public holidays. Nazih says the growing number of waiting people in long queues for hours on end has become a customary scene at the bus stops, which means that not enough buses or other vehicles are operating along the Amman-Irbid route. The writer draws attention to the fact that only two local transport companies operate buses along this route, and they own air-conditioned and comfortable buses, attracting most of the commuters. But he says buses available through these two firms are not sufficient for the growing number of daily commuters between the two main cities, and he urges the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) to enter the arena. People standing in long queues every day suffer from lack of good transport facilities, and the PTC has the means to end such suffering, the writer notes. If the PTC is a public transport company as its name suggests it ought to extend its services beyond Amman and its surrounding areas and villages and seek to serve people in real need of means of transport, the writer demands. He says the PTC's concession can be extended to include the Amman-Irbid route if its responsibility requires it to offer service to the public.

By Ralph Gowing

Reuter

LONDON — Freedom and hope may at last be in the air for Africa's 650 million people, but many are still on the treadmill of war, tribal strife, poverty, famine and disease.

Since "people power" revolutions toppled communism in Eastern Europe, many military and one-party governments across Africa have been ousted or weakened by surging pressure for democracy.

"Africans are now waking up to realise they can choose their own government," Duro Onabule, spokesman for Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida, said last month.

But Africa's problems are still piling up and there is no easy escape.

Western countries have increasingly demanded better economic management and democracy as preconditions for handing out aid.

The scale of some of Africa's problems almost defies solution: The continent's population is predicted to grow by almost 40 per cent to 900 million by the end of the century, an annual three per cent rise — "the highest regional growth rate the world has ever seen," according to the U.N. Population Fund.

About 30 million Africans in 17 countries need emergency food aid this year, and the U.N. calculates one in three Africans is underfed.

The continent is weighed down by a \$270 billion debt crisis. Sub-Saharan Africa has six million cases of AIDS compared with 1.5 million in Europe, the United States and Australia combined.

In the Horn of Africa, graves in remote hamlets and desolate refugee camps mark the progress of a devastating famine.

The U.N. says the lives of more than 17 million people in Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia are threatened.

Civil wars have destroyed agriculture, transport and communications, and many people are dying in areas too remote for doctors and relief workers to reach.

Despite the ousting of hated rulers in Ethiopia and Somalia this year, lasting peace still appears a dream in the horn.

In Ethiopia, Eritrean guerrillas

in May won a 30-year war to control the Red Sea province as allies from the northern province of Tigray led a victorious rebel army into the capital Addis Ababa.

Only a pledge by Eritreans to await an internationally supervised referendum on independence seems to be preventing a formal break from the rest of Ethiopia.

Tribally-based northern Somali rebels last month declared the former British Somaliland independent from the rest of the country. The clan-based groups in charge of the capital reject the north's declaration of independence.

Sudan, the largest country in Africa is split between the dominant Arab, Muslim north and the Christian and animist south. Southern rebels have been fighting for eight years for a bigger slice of the meagre national cake.

The fighting in these three countries has left more than one million people exiled in neighbouring lands. Others have been driven from their homes — in aid workers' jargon "internally displaced" in their own countries.

In West Africa, the intractable Liberian conflict poses a serious threat to regional security.

Liberian President Amos Sawyer says his country is effectively partitioned and locked in a "no-peace, no-war" impasse with Charles Taylor's rebels.

With Taylor refusing to negotiate and still holding most of Liberia territory, Sawyer's authority stops at the outskirts of Monrovia. He is protected by a Nigerian-led West African force called Ecomog.

Sierra Leone, Liberia's Western neighbour, was invaded last March by rebels who President Joseph Momoh says are mainly fighters in Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia.

Members of the 16-nation Economic Community of West African States are split over Liberia — most are absorbed in their own painful reforms.

Regional analysts say several presidents are certain to fall this year through elections, military coups or simply through pressure from the streets.

Benin, Cape Verde and Sao Tome all voted leftist incumbents out of office this year.

Mali's Moussa Traore saw his 22-year reign end last March after troops killed up to 200 anti-government protesters. Traore is

being tried by the interim military-led government.

Presidents in Zaire, Togo, Niger have been forced by strikes and riots to convene national political conferences.

The leaders of Cameroon and Guinea are resisting mounting opposition pressure to call such conferences.

Supporters of Cameroon's embattled President Paul Biya have nakedly played the tribal card by urging Biya's Beti people to fight back against an opposition they say is dominated by northern and western tribes.

In Togo, President Gnassingbe Eyadema has packed the army with his Kabye tribesmen who fear his concessions to the opposition will lead to a takeover by mainly Ewe southerners.

Although 85-year-old President Felix Houphouet-Boigny won a landslide win in Ivory Coast's first multi-party elections last year, his grip on power is weakening fast, diplomats say.

Opposition parties led by the powerful Ivorian Popular Front say the elections were rigged and are demanding the resignation of the government.

Africa's giant, Nigeria, is embarked on its latest attempt to weld a workable democracy in a country of 110 million people of different religions and ethnic groups. President Babangida's military authorities are due to hand over to an elected civilian government at the end of 1992.

The leaders of Ghana and Sierra Leone are under pressure to speed up their pro-democracy programmes.

Senegal saw a positive development this year when President Abdou Diouf's government patched matters up with separatist guerrillas in Casamance region.

In South Africa, township fighting between supporters of the African National Congress (ANC) and the Inkatha Freedom Party is a major threat to the transition from apartheid rule.

ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela suspended power-sharing talks with the white government of President F.W. de Klerk last month after accusing it of siding with Inkatha in the violence.

Political analysts say the fighting, which killed 2,400 blacks last year, has its roots in a struggle for control of black townships.

They say there is also a strong element of tribalism involved —

Inkatha is almost exclusively Zulu.

Angola is proving to be the big success story of southern Africa following a Portuguese-mediated peace agreement signed by the government and rebels on May 31.

The agreement ended 16 years of civil war between the government and the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) since independence from Portugal in 1975.

The war shattered a country of nine million people potentially rich in oil, diamonds and agriculture.

The government ditched adherence to Marxism early this year and has adopted a centre-left stance and a free market economy ahead of Angola's first-ever multi-party elections due late next year.

The situation in Portugal's other former southern African colony, Mozambique, is more intractable.

The freilimo government there has also ditched Marxism in favour of a multi-party free-market democracy. But despite a year of contacts little progress has been made in striking a deal with the rebel Mozambican national resistance movement.

Famine has hit a large percentage of Mozambique's 15 million population.

Relief agencies estimate about 1.2 million Mozambicans are refugees, most of them in neighbouring Malawi, while the war has displaced millions more within the country.

Landlocked Zimbabwe maintains up to 9,000 troops in Mozambique to help guard transport routes to the Indian Ocean.

In Lesotho, a small mountainous kingdom completely surrounded by South Africa, army unrest over the past few weeks was led to a coup, counter-coup, and restoration of the original coup leaders.

At the other end of the continent, Algeria, Africa's second biggest country and home to 25 million people, has been buffeted by opposing winds of democracy and Islamic fundamentalism.

Austerity and a soaring population have fanned the storm.

Poverty sparked riots in October 1988, and President Chadli Benjedid began economic and political reforms to change the rigid one-party socialist state system in place since independence from France in 1962.

Faithful and tolerant too

By Thomas J. Fitzpatrick

Congratulations to His Majesty King Hussein, the people of Jordan and the members of the Commission of the National Charter for a charter which is particularly important for the life and health of Jordan at this time and for the foreseeable future.

I am an expatriate American living in Amman and working for the Latin Church. I am also a priest and Jesuit. And I was very happy to see the production of the charter and to have read it.

It is very clear from the beginning to the end of the document that democracy and political pluralism are being proposed and encouraged in Jordan. This means also tolerance, human rights, religious freedom, respect for differing views. Also throughout the document there is clear emphasis made that the history of Jordan is inseparably connected with the history and ideals of Islam and the Arab Nation.

I would like to join those who point out that this desire for democracy and pluralism and the desire for loyalty to the principles of Islam and the Arab Nation will not always make the way easy. The conflict for us as human beings is this: Why should we allow opposing opinions when we are sure that our traditions are true? This problem has plagued the history of many nations that are looked upon as democratic. The West has suffered much in trying to bring balance to this problem. The Puritans, for example, who fled England in the 17th century to find a place in the new world where they could exercise their religion freely, became themselves intolerant of other religious views.

I think that the West has not been fully successful in creating democracies (maybe it is better to say that democracies may experience degrees of success; at one time being more successful than at another); however, there are many individual people in the West who have succeeded in integrating a profound faith in God with an ability to listen and respect other people who have different views. And similarly here in Jordan there are many Islamic and Christian individuals

who enjoy an integrated faith in an attitude of tolerance and openness.

In the Arab world there is a very great suspicion of the West. Some of this is well founded; there are certainly aspects of the West that the Arab World does not want to imitate. But some of the suspicion may be out of an excessive and irrational fear. In light of the present challenge in Jordan to integrate a faith tradition and a modern democracy, could I suggest that those individuals in the West who have been successful in deepening their faith and in being tolerant and creative in a modern, democratic, scientific world may be helpful partners in a dialogue with similar people here.

The blanket rejection of the West by some people in the Arab World fails to take into account these many people in the West who have been successful in their religious life and their life as modern creative, political individuals. Dialogue with these people can only be helpful. The West has experienced profound crises over the last several centuries as democracies have developed, but, again, out of it all — even if the democracies have not totally succeeded — many individuals have been successful in deepening their faith and maintaining a creative openness to the world. If anything is worthwhile from the West, it is these people, and it is worthwhile maintaining dialogue with them.

I wish Jordan and the people of Jordan success in integrating a long tradition of belief and a modern democracy in which tolerance is a basic virtue. At this point I mention a slight disappointment with the Charter. With many aspects of Jordanian life mentioned throughout the document I did not read the word "Christian" once. There are very many Christians who are very important for the welfare of Jordan, and the general population of Christian in Jordan are devoted and loyal citizens. It would be nice to think that in the stress on tolerance, democracy and pluralism this community of Christians, who also have a long tradition in this area, could be explicitly recognised. It would help in the aim of democracy and tolerance.

LETTERS

Collective effort needed to stop damage to environment

To the Editor,

ALTHOUGH the industrialisation of Jordan is more recent than that of many other nations, it has taken less time for Jordan to realise that industrialisation takes its toll on the environment and the earth cannot repair the excessive damage done to it on its own. Although industry is often named as the villain, individual actions, activities, and lifestyles can have an equally strong impact on the environment, especially when the effect of one individual action is multiplied by the number of individuals found repeating that same action.

For years, each time I have been forced to follow a vehicle spewing out clouds of black and noxious fumes from its exhaust, I ask myself how this car, taxi, pickup, truck, or bus is even allowed on the road — especially when there is a technical inspection required at each yearly vehicle registration. Even if the police do not fine or otherwise punish these owners, the individuals concerned should want to keep their vehicles in proper running condition for the benefit of both vehicle and environment.

And in recent years, when I see aerial views of Amman showing large numbers of homes with private swimming pools, I feel outraged and indignant at the egotistical waste of a limited and precious resource like water just because someone has enough money to pay for it. There have been awareness campaigns to get people to conserve their water usage, but pools were never mentioned. With current water shortages, filled private swimming pools should be harshly dealt with because it is not a matter of cost but of water supply for the whole nation.

But these examples of pollution and waste are neither recent nor new developments in Jordan. "The last straw" which prompted me to write was my latest visit to Dibbin National Forest and Park. I first visited Dibbin Park during a visit to Jordan in 1976. Although it was not an easy journey to arrange at the time, it was a great source of pride to my hosts to have a national forest in Jordan and therefore such a site had to be visited. After I married and came to live here, we continued to make occasional visits to Dibbin and in recent years have become more frequent visitors as our children enjoy spending a hot summer day playing under the shade of the forest trees away from the heat of the Jordan Valley where we live. We have seen the gradual deterioration in the condition of the park, but last Friday it looked

more like a dump than a national park. The forest is in an appalling and shameful state from overflowing heaps and spilled piles of litter, garbage, waste, or rubbish (call it what you will) which over the years was left behind by picnickers and park visitors. This waste has not been integrated or bio-degraded, it has only increased itself into huge flowing areas of scattered unsanitary, unhealthy, dangerous, and disgusting debris. Hardly a place anyone would want to take their children for a meal and outing.

Having Boy Scouts or Girl Guides perform an annual public-service park clean-up doesn't deal with the problem at its source; besides the children are already taught to pick up after themselves after eating in public places like schoolyards. Hiring a park cleaning staff is expensive and still doesn't deal with the origin of the problem. One solution which occurred to me would clean up the forest through minimal private individual effort and cost, but its effect as a collective effort will bring positive results and clean up the park while at the same time re-conditioning the behaviour of picnickers and park visitors to pick up after themselves in public the way they do in their own homes. This would keep the park clean and the problem will have been dealt with at its source.

The plan is as follows: There are two main entrances into the forest area. At the outermost limits of the park, on each road, there should be a gated or controlled entrance. Since the civil defence usually has a fire truck on duty within the park confines for fire alertness, necessary manpower could come from civil defence forces — one man posted at each entrance gate and two additional men for patrolling the park area looking for people who toss their litter from car or bus windows and checking on the picnickers who have built fires to see that the fires are properly built and extinguished and the sites are kept tidy. Walkie-talkie or radio contact could be used to keep the men in touch with each other and their command should they be needed to fight a fire in the park area. Once the staff is established, the clean-up can proceed. Every vehicle entering the park is stopped at the gated-entrance and the passengers are given a plastic garbage bag like they use for garbage collection at home. To help defer this expense, a 50 or 100 fils charge could be levied for each bag issued. When the picnickers or visitors leave the park area, they must present a filled garbage bag at the exit which would be deposited into large bins or a garbage truck parked by the gate.

Should the visitor not present a bag filled with park rubbish (partially filled bags do not fulfill the requirement) then a JD 10, — park-user fee will be collected. A bus would pay JD 2,500 per passenger. Each car must bring one filled bag, large cars carrying more than 8 people could be required to fill two bags. For buses, each four passengers together will be asked to fill one bag. In the park's present condition, it would take less than five minutes cleaning at a chosen picnic site to collect enough rubbish to fill up a bag, not forgetting to put in whatever rubbish each person had himself generated during his visit. Once the park is restored to a decent state fit to be seen and able to be truly enjoyed again by visitors and picnickers, it would suffice to just charge 50-100 fils entry fee and issue a garbage bag, asking the people to fill it with their rubbish and deposit it at the gate when they leave the park area.

Arguing about who left the rubbish will never lead to cleaning up the park — only positive action can do that. And for that, each of us is responsible. Jordanians regardless of creed, education, income, social status, or ethnic background will want to restore this spot of natural beauty for recreation and as a heritage for their children. It is a source of national pride. Non-Jordanians in Jordan for various reasons (e.g. foreign spouses, diplomatic corps and their families, business and project advisors, managers, refugees, students, teachers and professors, foreign workers and employees, tourists, etc.) will also want to join the clean-up effort because no culture or society considers it good manners for a guest to abuse or damage the property of his host — especially when the host is like Jordan, a country in which good hospitality to all is elemental in its culture and society.

And as citizens of the earth, we should be concerned about pollution wherever we find it. We can be proud knowing that our individual actions and participation can make a difference in the clean-up and preservation of the earth for the following generations. Our action not only restores a healthy environment, but it also gives our children positive examples of actions and attitudes to follow.

Diane Hdaireh,
Muthaleth Al Arda.



Ahmad Wadi (right) and Daud (left) both paralyzed from the waist down by Israeli army bullets (photos by Debbie Lovatt)

Bullets in a sweet tin

By Debbie Lovatt
Special to the Jordan Times

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Dr. Wahib Dajani reached up and took out a small sweet tin from a cabinet in his office. The tin rattled but the sweets had long gone.

Removing the brightly coloured lid revealed a collection of various bullets used by the Israeli army throughout the Palestinian intifada.

The next box of tricks he pulled out from a cluttered shelf opposite his desk was a portfolio of X-rays — documents of the damage injury such bullets can cause.

Dr. Dajani is an anaesthetist and is in charge of the intensive care unit at Al Maqasid Hospital on the Mount of Olives. It is a general hospital, but many intifada-related cases are referred there from all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip which Israel has occupied (but not annexed) since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Dr. Dajani said: "This hospital has become famous since the intifada because it has all the specialities and good intensive care."

Al Maqasid hospital is run by a charitable Islamic organisation, rather than by Israel. Of the intifada injuries, 70 per cent are bone-related due to gunshot wounds. The sophisticated therapy, such as external fixation, needed for injuries is available there, but not in most West Bank hospitals.

External fixation is the technique whereby pins are placed in the healthy bone tissue on either side of a fracture. These pins are then aligned gradually as the break heals by being fixed to a bar externally. It is a slow process, taking many months.

The uprising has stretched the hospital's capacity and Dr. Dajani estimates that 5,000 intifada-related cases have been treated there since its eruption over three-and-a-half years ago.

"Of the roughly 5,000 we have treated here, 1,200 have been serious," said the doctor. "This means that we have treated 3,800 in the outpatients department. Their injuries were from beating, tear gas, or superficial bullets. The other 1,200 are serious, this means they were shot in the head, chest, abdomen and extremities and sometimes in the back," he explained.

Of those treated, 22 per cent were under 16 years old, 65 per cent between 16 and 22 and the rest older.

Three different types of bullet have so far been used to quell the Palestinian uprising: high velocity bullets, plastic bullets and rubber ones.

The high velocity bullet "has been partly abandoned because of internal pressure and pressure from human rights organisations," said Dr. Dajani.

X-rays show, however, that plastic bullets fired from a distance of 80 metres can be as devastating as metal bullets. Both kinds fragment the bone sending splinters into blood vessels and nerves which can paralyse the limb even if the bone itself is not broken.

Rubber bullets (metal covered with rubber) are round or conical and about the size of a thumb and a large marble respectively. Slow velocity bullets can be lethal depending on the distance they were fired from and where they penetrate.

Another X-ray was of an eight-year-old boy who was hit with a plastic bullet in the brain. He died shortly after being brought to the hospital.

Image after image showed clearly the devastation each type of bullet can cause.

Some pictures showed "lucky escapes from death" such as that of a man who was shot in the chest. The bullet missed his heart by two millimetres.

Laughing at the absurdity of being able to say that someone was lucky to have been shot in one place rather than another, Dr. Dajani told the story to match the X-ray of several people who, had the bullet been two centimetres this way or that way, it would have been the end of them.

One miraculous tale was of a seventeen-year-old boy. Dr. Dajani tells it best:

"Two years ago this boy was brought to us. There were 30 perforations in his abdomen just from one bullet. He was operated on three times because there was leakage. The third time we had to take out his whole intestine. In order to survive he had to be fed intravenously. This took 14 hours over night, every night. He survived like this for two and a half years. He was from Dahsheh Camp near Bethlehem."

Many of those injured were not so lucky.

A 14-year-old boy from just outside Jerusalem was hit in the skull by two rubber bullets. The injury caused him to lose the ability to speak. He was the breadwinner in his family.

The next X-ray was of an eighteen-month-old girl who had been hit by a rubber bullet through the eye. She lost her eye but, as yet, no one knows whether she is suffering from any brain damage as a result.

Rubber bullets are blunt and hundreds of people have become blinded in one eye from them.

A tour of this 207-bed hospital reveals the effects of the

recent Gulf crisis on new projects and illuminates concerns for the near future.

The hospital heavily relied on donations from the Gulf states and Palestinians outside the area. Since the Gulf crisis erupted, with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August last year, donations from the Gulf states have dwindled due to Palestinian support for Iraq. President Saddam Hussein. Also, money transfers from benefactors were not made because of regional instability.

In one section of the hospital wards have been prepared and are ready for a coronary care unit, but there is no money with which to buy equipment or pay employees. The project has been put on indefinite hold.

Writing letters at a table in one ward was Ahmad Wadi from Khan Younis refugee camp in Gaza. He is 16 and tells his own story:

"It was a Friday about ten months ago. I was going to pray and some people nearby were throwing stones so the Israeli soldiers opened fire. They shot me in the chest and the back. After they shot me they hit me in the head and the legs. They put me in prison for two days before taking me to hospital. I was operated on to remove the bullet from my chest then I was brought here from Gaza. The bullet in my back made me paralysed and I needed operations on my legs because they were broken from the hitting."

Ahmad Wadi has made friends with another boy from Gaza of similar fate. The two were later seen outside in the hospital grounds being pushed and spun in their wheel chairs by friends who often come to visit them. At one point, with the doctors and nurses turning a blind eye, they paused for a cigarette.

"The psychological stress is already enough for these guys," Dr. Dajani observed.

The Writer has just returned from a three-week visit to the occupied territories.

U.N. nuclear mission due in Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

The U.N. Special Commission overseeing Iraq's weapons.

In an interview with the Associated Press at U.N. Command headquarters in Baghdad, Mr. Kay said he did not know the whereabouts of the truck convoy the team tried to photograph Friday. He said U.S. intelligence satellites probably were tracking it.

"As of now, we are waiting to have our inspection status clarified by the Iraqis," Mr. Kay added.

"There is no point in running around like lunatics in the sun," said another team member on condition of anonymity.

According to Mr. Kay and U.S. intelligence reports, the convoy of up to 100 trucks was believed to contain crates of material and equipment for manufacturing weapons-grade enriched uranium.

The inspection team has been tracking the crates since last Sunday. They visited the Abu Ghazub army base west of Baghdad and spotted the material being moved with forklifts and cranes.

The inspectors were denied entry until Wednesday, when the suspect crates were gone. On Friday, another visit to a site west of Baghdad confirmed they had been taken there, Mr. Kay said.

The inspection team was fired on after it tried to follow and film some of the vehicles.

Iraq has maintained that the crates contained ordinary equipment and the frantic moving activity was directed only towards reconstruction of a nearby bridge.

Mr. Kay said the U.N. Sanctions Committee plans to designate more Iraqi sites as suspected nuclear installations. Under the ceasefire resolution, Iraq said it had only 24 sites, 18 of which were destroyed in the war.

Since May, the Sanctions Committee said it has collected evidence indicating there are several more not disclosed by Iraq.

Israeli Science Minister Yuval Neeman Saturday called international attempts to search for Iraqi nuclear material a "mission impossible."

"I don't believe that international inspectors of this type could really start a detective job of looking for this equipment all over Iraq," said Mr. Neeman, a physicist who headed Israel's space agency before becoming minister.

"(Iraq) has simply cleaned up those places that (it) doesn't want to be full of indications of what (it) was doing... so I don't believe there will be any success in terms of finding it," he added on Israel Radio.

When asked if he meant the efforts were a "mission impossible," Mr. Neeman answered: "That is precisely what I have in mind."

Another 21-member U.N. team is due in Baghdad on Sunday to begin destroying Iraq's ballistic missiles, mainly Scuds like those used against Israel and Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war.

Destruction of Iraqi missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres was mandated by the ceasefire agreement approved by the Security Council.

Baker not expected soon in Mideast

(Continued from page 1)

East four times since mid-March without making tangible progress.

Syria wants an active role for the United Nations in a peace conference co-sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union that would lead to direct Arab-Israeli talks. It also wants the full conference to reconvene whenever there is a deadlock in direct bilateral talks.

Israel opposes a U.N. role, and also insists on a single inaugural session of the full conference.

Reports from Washington said letters from Mr. Bush to Mr. Assad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir suggested compromises on the two disputed issues. Mr. Shamir has replied.

On the Israeli position, Mr. Owens would only say that "there is a lot of support for a peace conference in Israel."

But he restated Washington's displeasure with Israel's continued building of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

"We are very concerned about settlements in the West Bank," he said. "The Congress is very

concerned about those issues and we expect to raise them again when next we visit Israel."

Israel's Right-wing Housing Minister Ariel Sharon said Saturday Israeli leftists were waging psychological warfare by asking the United States to link aid to a freeze on settlement in the occupied territories.

Israel's Ambassador to Washington Zalman Shoval warned last week the government would have to choose between U.S. aid and Jewish settlement but Mr. Sharon denied the United States was trying to link the two issues.

Settler killed

(Continued from page 1)

priming blew up in his face, Palestinian sources said.

The army confined Shati's 41,300 people to their homes and searched nearby Shifa hospital for a second Palestinian wounded in the blast.

In the West Bank village of Arab, residents said activists of the Black Panthers shot dead Adel Sa'adat, 63, who confessed before his death that Israeli forces recruited him in 1968 and he in turn recruited young men as paid collaborators.

The army imposed a curfew on Arab.

In Al Bireh, 30-year-old Suhair Al Ajal, named by residents as a collaborator, was gunned down in daylight in a crowded vegetable market. The army clamped curfews on Al Bireh and nearby Ramallah.

Undercover units

The paramilitary border police force operates undercover units using troops disguised as Arabs to capture Palestinians, their commander said Saturday.

Border police commander Amit Meshulam's statement followed a television broadcast a week ago on army undercover squads that employ Arab disguises for arrest raids in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"There are border police units that execute similar operations," Meshulam said when asked by Israeli radio if units like the army squads existed in the border police. He declined to give any details of the operations.

Kurds seek more from government

(Continued from page 1)

Baath Party against its enemies and sever ties with the West.

The Iraqi proposal also keeps police authority under the presidency, and requires anyone standing for political office to swear allegiance to the Baath Party, said Barahan Sali, a spokesman for Mr. Talabani's group.

"Such an agreement won't inspire the confidence of the Kurdish people. Unless they feel safe, it is not worth the paper it is written on," said Mr. Sali.

Mr. Talabani said the main points of the Kurds' counterpro-

posal were for greater autonomy and a new constitution to be drawn up by a freely elected parliament.

Iraqi exile groups meanwhile opened a two-day meeting in Damascus hoping to recapture momentum lost when their rebellions failed.

The solidarity of the disparate alliance is threatened by the Kurdish negotiations with the Iraqi government.

Shiites from southern Iraq feel in particular that they were left in the lurch by Western powers which came to the Kurds' aid but not to theirs.

The meeting will hear a report

Democracy in Algeria

(Continued from page 1)

Algerian news agency APS said. At least 39 people have been killed this month in clashes between security forces and Islamic fundamentalists demanding an Islamic state.

On June 5, President Benjedid called in the army, declared a state of siege, replaced the government and postponed general elections due to be held last Thursday.

Tanks and troops withdrew from the capital last Monday after a two-day holiday passed calmly. But violence reignited on Tuesday and the troops returned.

On Friday, FIS leader Abassi Madani who had previously been conciliatory towards the army, said it had plunged into politics. He told 20,000 supporters at Kouba Mosque in the capital: "If the army does not withdraw we will be obliged to call for jihad (holy war)."

The interior ministry said Colonel Bachir Lahrech, the head of its security forces, the DGSN (Direction Generale de la Surete Nationale), had been replaced as from Friday.

Tolba Mohammed, a career police officer who commanded the Algiers area before his last post as consul to France, took over from Col. Lahrech.

No reason was given for the change at such a critical time. The former DGSN chief was to take up other, unspecified, duties.



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Sabatini survives problems to reach Wimbledon 3rd round

LONDON (R) — Second seed Gabriela Sabatini struggled with her serve but still won through to the third round of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships Saturday.

As officials and fans rejoiced at the sight of sunshine and blue skies after days of rain, the day's programme got off to a good start with swift wins by Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and last year's finalist Zina Garrison as well.

But though all three seeds won in straight sets, each had her own problems.

Sabatini, the reigning U.S. Open champion, beat Frenchwoman Karine Quentrec 6-4 6-2 in a court one match which saw 11 service breaks.

In both sets, the Argentine had to come from behind to beat the dogged Quentrec, ranked 68 places below her in the world at 71st.

"I wasn't happy with my first serve," Sabatini said. "I was missing too many. I gave her the chance to put pressure on me."

The first set alone took 49 minutes, by which time the

fourth-seeded Sanchez Vicario had almost completed her 6-4 6-1 win over South African Amanda Coetzer on the neighbouring centre court.

Sanchez Vicario, the 1989 French Open champion, won only three points as she lost the first three games but surged back to take 12 of the next 14 games.

"It took me a while to get into it but I then started playing aggressively and with lots of confidence," the Spaniard said. "I'm feeling very good on this surface."

Sanchez Vicario welcomed a decision to play matches on the middle Sunday — traditionally a rest day — for the first time in Wimbledon history in a move to mop up the huge backlog of rain-delayed matches.

"I think maybe it's better. Anyway, if you play first match you can still go to church..." she said.

Garrison, like Sabatini, had problems with her serve, dropping it three times in the first set against 19-year-old Bulgarian

Elena Pampoulova.

But Pampoulova was in even deeper trouble, allowing herself to be broken four times in the set before Garrison, who lost the Wimbledon final to Martina Navratilova last year, won 6-3 6-1.

Meanwhile, Boris Becker launched his campaign to wrest the title back from Stefan Edberg.

Ivan Lendl, French Open champion Jim Courier and Andre Agassi, the teenagers' heart-throb, preceded Becker into the second round after four frustrating days of watching the rain fall.

But Michael Chang, the French Open winner in 1989 and seeded ninth here, bowed out to fellow American Tim Mayotte who saved four match-points in the fourth set to win 6-7 4-6 6-1 7-6 6-2.

Top seed Steffi Graf, the women's champion in 1988 and 1989, became the first player into the third round — before many others had even got through their first matches — with a 39-minute, 6-0 6-1 win over American peanut Louie Harper.



Gabriela Sabatini

For Becker and for Lendl too, victory was pretty routine when it finally came.

Becker, triple champion at Wimbledon and the losing finalist to Edberg last year, beat fellow German Carl-Uwe Steeb 6-4 6-2 6-4 while Lendl defeated New Zealander Kelly Evernden 6-2 7-5 7-6. Edberg had completed his first-round victory Thursday.

Tyson beats Ruddock in 12-round decision

LAS VEGAS (R) — Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, landing crushing body blows throughout, knocked down Donovan "Razor" Ruddock twice and went on to win by a 12-round unanimous points decision Friday.

Tyson was by far the busier of the fighters, with Ruddock standing in front of his opponent for much of the fight, hoping to land a knockout blow.

Shortly into the second round, Tyson caught Ruddock with an overhand right to the head. The Jamaican-born Canadian went down, but bounced right back up.

Some 36 seconds into the fourth round, Tyson landed a right cross that again dropped Ruddock and once more he rose immediately. This time he was smiling.

Judge Chuck Giampa scored the fight 113-109 and judges Art Lurie and Daib Shirley had it

114-108. Immediately after the fight Tyson said to Ruddock: "You know we gotta fight again, eventually."

Ruddock replied: "Definitely. I want to fight him again."

Tyson beat Ruddock in March when the referee stopped their scheduled 12-round fight in the seventh round.

Many ringers and the Ruddock camp thought the fight had been stopped prematurely, setting up Friday's rematch for which both fighters were reported to be paid \$5 million.

Ruddock, 27, became the fifth man to go the distance against Tyson, who raised his record to 41-1. Ruddock dropped to 25-3-1.

The other fighters to go the distance against Tyson were Mitch Green, James Tillis, James "Bonecrusher" Smith and Tony Tucker.

Tyson, who weighed 216

pounds (97.9 kg), moved his head from side to side at the beginning of the fight, but after about the second round he provided a more stationary target.

Throughout the fight, Tyson landed withering body blows, which by the fifth round brought Ruddock's elbows down to his sides for protection.

Both fighters were repeatedly warned for low blows.

Tyson had two points taken away for low blows and Ruddock had a point deducted for hitting after the bell, which both fighters did several times.

"He had his belt up pretty high," said Tyson, who will turn 25 Sunday. "I didn't complain, he didn't complain."

Ruddock certainly looked like he had absorbed punishment.

Ruddock took at least three stitches and may have a broken jaw.

Ruddock's corner originally

denied that his fighter had gone to the hospital, but Ruddock's manager, Murad Mohammad, admitted a couple of hours after the bout that the Canadian had been admitted to Valley Hospital and been released.

Mohammad said doctors told him there was a good chance Ruddock had a broken jaw, but that the large swelling on the left side of his face made the X-rays difficult to read. Ruddock, who was treated and released, will be X-rayed again.

"They said he should be prepared, there's an excellent chance the jaw is broken," Mohammad said.

Eddie Mafuz, Jr., whose father manager Rodolpho Marin, who fought on the undercard of the Tyson-Ruddock fight, said he saw Ruddock in the hospital and that he had taken three stitches on the inside of his lip.

Gamache takes WBA title

LEWISTON, Maine (R) — Joe Gamache delighted his hometown fans by capturing the vacant World Boxing Association (WBA) junior lightweight championship when he stopped South African Jerry Ngweni in the 10th round of their scheduled 12-round fight.

Friday's bout marked the first

title fight to be held in Lewiston since Muhammad Ali, then Cassius Clay, knocked out Sonny Liston in the first round on May 25, 1965, a year before Gamache was born.

Gamache appeared tentative early on and often retreated as Ngweni went on the attack with body blows.

Sainz is set for victory in New Zealand Rally

AUCKLAND (R) — World champion Carlos Sainz capitalised on the mistakes of his main rivals Saturday and looked increasingly set for victory in the New Zealand Rally.

The Toyota driver's Lancia rivals Juha Kankkunen of Finland and Didier de Feuille lost valuable time after making the wrong tyre choice for one of the morning stages.

They both dropped about 20 seconds because of poor grip on the unexpectedly icy road surface.

"We will stop fighting now and

just drive for a finish," second-placed Kankkunen said as he found himself about a minute and a half behind the Spaniard.

Sainz said two forest stages were extremely slippery. He hit a bank after the end of one of them but his car suffered no significant damage.

By the end of the third day, with one relatively short day remaining, Sainz led Kankkunen by one minute 26 seconds with Audi a further 35 seconds back. When the day began with a stage in the streets of Rotorua his lead was only 40 seconds.

Nelson retains boxing title in draw with Fenech

LAS VEGAS (R) — Azuman Nelson of Ghana made Jeff Fenech's American debut a frustrating affair as the two battled furiously to a 12-round draw that left Nelson with his World Boxing Council (WBC) super featherweight title intact.

While the judges left the crown in Nelson's hands, if only barely, the crowd of 15,000 at the Mirage Hotel Friday night, expecting a decision for Fenech, were vocal in their disagreement when the draw was announced.

After the bout, Fenech was visibly upset and said he was ready for a rematch on the spot.

"Put the gloves on and let's do 12 right now," he said. Nelson, perhaps realising he was lucky to escape with his title, said of his opponent: "The man is very tough."

Nelson controlled the early rounds, but the previously undefeated Australian appeared to land more and harder punches over the final eight rounds.

There were no knockdowns in the fast-paced bout, but Fenech jarred Nelson in the 12th round with three rights to the head. Another right to the head seconds before the final bell had Nelson hurt and in trouble.

LOCAL SPORTS BRIEFS

Al-Ramtha prepares for Asian finals

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Ramtha Sporting Club, the Jordanian cup holders, is expected to enter a training camp at Irbid province on June 30 before leaving to Bangladesh in order to take part in the final rounds of Asian Clubs Football Tournament due to be held on July 20. A top Jordanian football official told the Jordan Times that the 12-days training camp will consist of some warm-up matches with the leading local clubs under the supervision of Iraqi coach Saad Hamza, the former trainer of Iraqi Olympic Team, who took over his new post two weeks ago. The official added that the reshuffled Al Ramtha team will meet clubs from China, Indonesia and Oman in the final rounds and they look forward to achieving good results after being the first Jordanian team to ever qualify to the Asian finals.

Team prepares for Arab swimming meet

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will take part in the Arab swimming and diving tournament due to be held in Syria next August. Spokesman of the Jordanian Swimming Federation (JSF) told the Jordan Times that seven athletes will represent the Kingdom. They are Yousef Al Zaro, Ali Al Wazani, Amir Al Wazani, Salim Iskafi, Hani Nino, Ayad Qaqish and Yanal Basha. He added that (JSF) will organise a series of tests for the men's team to select the best swimmers who can set good records.

JBF rejects Cairo resolutions

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian Basketball Federation (JBF) rejected the resolutions issued by the Arab Basketball Federation in Cairo. (JBF)'s spokesman said Jordan will not take part in the next Arab championship which is expected to be held in Egypt.

Caramanlis opens 11th Mediterranean Games

ATHENS (Agencies) — Greek President Constantine Caramanlis opened the 11th Mediterranean Games to loud cheers from about 80,000 Greeks and visitors at this capital's Olympic Stadium.

The games, which bring together athletes from 18 Mediterranean countries every four years, will be held in Athens and there other cities across the country. About 3,500 athletes are taking part.

The games are the first sports event after the Gulf War for seven Arab countries — Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Lebanon and Syria.

For Greece, they hold a special significance because Atlanta was chosen over Athens to be the site of the 1996 Olympic Games. The Mediterranean Games are seen as a consolation prize for many Greeks bitterly disappointed at the loss of the centennial.

Greeks feel strongly about the Olympic Games which go back over 2,500 years, when athletes of ancient Greece competed in Olympia. The games were revived in Athens in 1896.

Their bitterness was clear Friday when they jeered Juan Antonio Samaranch, head of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), who many Greeks blame for the choice of Atlanta as host city.

The mainly-Greek audience jeered again when the Turkish team, their neighbours and traditional rivals, marched onto the field.

The opening ceremony, with dances depicting war and peace, included sketches evoking ancient Greek legends.

Samaranch, closely guarded by police, played down the incident.

"I believe the booing was not against me but against what I am representing," he said when he arrived at the games Saturday.

"Athensians are not happy with the IOC decision to give the Olympics to Atlanta but this is normal. As far as I am concerned I must always support IOC decisions."

The 12th Mediterranean Games, awarded to the city four years ago, were viewed as the main pre-Olympic test for sports facilities.

Now the event takes on greater significance with Greece desperate to show it can still stage a big sports show.

From Saturday the athletes from 17 nations take part in the games' 23 sports — more than ever before — but in most cases the quality will be second-rate.

The exception is athletics which has attracted some of the world's top competitors.

But the city seemed greatly excited by the \$200-million games as organisers added final touches to the huge sports complex around the new 90,000-capacity Olympic Stadium.

Despite losing the Olympics, Greeks proceeded to build the facilities — including a velodrome, swimming complex and a big sports hall — to have them ready for the Mediterranean Games.

The building programme met with open criticism in a country on the verge of bankruptcy.

"We played everything on one card only, the Olympic," said a games official.

"We lost but we must still play according to the rules. We simply have to stage a good games if we want to be taken seriously in the future."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JUNE 30, 1991

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Flighter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day to try to attend to the little affairs of everyday life so you will have these tasks behind you and be able to concentrate on more important matters when vital aspects come forth.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Avoid that temptation to take chances early and later you are able to impress one who has considerable influence over your practical affairs.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) New ideas are possible early that could lead into a veritable mare's nest but later you find some new acquaintances carrying you happily.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have most inaccurate hunch early that could put you in a ditch with expert but later you find you can analyse and build a new wellbeing in most every way.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Whatever you would like to do that does necessitate more accord with partners is very good so take it easy early, find out what they want.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Taking things easy early in the morning brings a big chance later to do for those who look to you for assistance and who need your help.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever you would like to do that brings you pleasure and amusement is fine although you

feel tired early and are tempted to break up existing situations.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A day to be so thoughtful and considerate of those who dwell beneath your own roof that the future holds some pretty improved conditions there.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Take some time out to show you are the one who does like the way your usual companions engage in your joint projects and you are able to get out important correspondence.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is the moment to be sure you do open up some better way to show you are the one who does value security.

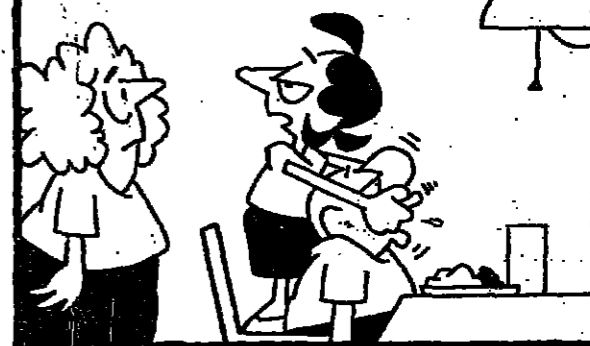
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make sure you are the one who values the personal companions who are there when you need them and entertaining them tonight at congenial pursuits.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Private and secret arrangements to get ahead fast are excellent right now so take time to show you are the one who does prepare for the future.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Seek those persons and conditions that you regard as friends or interesting acquaintances and get them to go along with what you would like them to do by persuasion.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Sometimes Stanley comes home from work so tired I have to help him chew."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PYNOH

TEPIN

SHRAID

DAGPOA

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: A "OOO" FOR

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: MURKY KNIFE RAVAGE TYPING

Answer: The bachelor claimed he had lots of chances to get married but kept saying "I'M NOT TAKING ANY"

THE Daily Crossword

by Frances Ragus

ACROSS

1 Powder base

5 Raised to the third power

10 In the thick of

14 Melville opus

15 Over

16 Ms Tennille

17 Pearly gems

19 — de combat

20 Like an gloo dweller

21 Picture-sque

23 Bapsmal water

24 Fames

25 Novel by Samuel Richardson

28 Dub

31 Cut short

32 Thatch

33 Cornet

34 Likewise

35 Ectromy

36 Vintage actress Mary

37 Best

39 Fr. river

40 Clear-headed

42 React on

44 Rhesus e.g.

45 Legion

46 Comes in first

47 Beams

49 Elegiac

53 Muscular user

54 Lure hole

56 An arm and —

57 Rapidly

58 Chrysalis

59 Unearthly

60 Appointed

61 Is in session

DOWN

1 Heavy reading

2 Biblical prophet

3 Appearance

4 Spruce e.g.

5 "Hot Tin Roof"

6 Sub

7 Ger. city

8 Holiday time

9 Dinner courses

10 Nonsilver

11 Crazy

12 Letters for Jesus

13 Plate

14 Young salmon

22 Darnier

24 Aspect

25 Father in Eng.

26 Habitat

27 Boonlegger's kin

28 Han

29 Unearthly

30 Penurious

32 Ballet movement

35 Serf

38 Expression of regret

40 One who avoids company

41 Open in a way

43 Diggings

44 Chopped

46 Shrink from pain

47 Spoils

48 Venus de —

49 Suds

50 Small case

51 Mo.

52 Sp. ladies' abbr.

55 Old govt. agcy.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH

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STAY IN CHARGE

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 5 4
♥ Q 7 6
♦ 10 5 3 2
♣ J 4

WEST
♠ Q 4 3
♥ 10
♦ A K J 8 3
♣ Q 10 7

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	Rate
Sterling Pound	1.7550
Deutsche Mark	1.7550
Swiss Franc	1.7550
French Franc	1.7550
Japanese Yen	1.7550
European Currency Unit	1.7550

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	1.7550	1.7550	1.7550	1.7550
Sterling Pound	1.7550	1.7550	1.7550	1.7550
Deutsche Mark	1.7550	1.7550	1.7550	1.7550
Swiss Franc	1.7550	1.7550	1.7550	1.7550
French Franc	1.7550	1.7550	1.7550	1.7550
Japanese Yen	1.7550	1.7550	1.7550	1.7550
European Currency Unit	1.7550	1.7550	1.7550	1.7550

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/oz	JD/Gm
Gold	366.35	2.95	Silver	4.22	1.10

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.55	0.57
Sterling Pound	1.1125	1.1125
Deutsche Mark	0.3747	0.3747
Swiss Franc	0.4419	0.4419
French Franc	0.1118	0.1118
Japanese Yen	0.0095	0.0095
Dutch Guilder	0.3366	0.3366
Swedish Krona	0.1050	0.1050
Italian Lira	0.0101	0.0101
Belgian Franc	0.1143	0.1143

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.800	1.8250
Lebanese Lira	0.0755	0.0750
Saudi Riyal	1.826	1.835
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.860	1.870
Qatari Riyal	1.900	1.9050
Omani Riyal	1.7600	1.7600
UAE Dirham	1.660	1.670
Greek Drachma	0.0450	0.0455
Cypriot Pound	1.4000	1.4200

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	19/6/1991	Change	26/6/1991	Change
All-Share	112.65		112.95	
Banking Sector	108.12		108.03	
Insurance Sector	116.31		117.22	
Industry Sector	116.90		117.76	
Services Sector	130.96		131.56	

LM dives into the red

STERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — KLM Royal Dutch Airlines edged into the red as operating costs during the latest fiscal year "farther than revenues and the airline took on an expensive restructuring programme. The Netherlands' 32 per cent state-owned carrier announced a net loss of 630 million guilders (\$312 million) for 1990-91 fiscal year ending March 31, compared to last year's profit of 340 million guilders (\$168 million). The airline said a 1.5 per cent increase in revenues was not enough to offset an 11 per cent rise in operating costs. KLM blamed rising costs on higher fuel with in operating costs. KLM blamed rising costs on higher fuel with in operating costs. KLM blamed rising costs on higher fuel with in operating costs.

Breakthrough completes 3rd channel tunnel link

DOVER, England (R) — Workers broke through the rock under the sea Friday to complete the last link of the channel tunnel between Britain and France. The vast project has been near to failure at times. According to Sir Alastair Morton, chairman of the Eurotunnel Company, the words "the project will have to stop" were spoken at one fraught 1988 meeting with the contractors. The independent newspaper quoted him Friday as saying there was a chance the following year that the banks would write off the venture, beset by delays and escalating cost estimates. Costs have risen from about \$8 billion to nearly \$12 billion. But Friday's breakthrough after 3½ years of digging, completes all three of the parallel tunnels in Europe's biggest civil engineering venture. "Progress has been extraordinary when you consider tunnelling was six to 12 months late in 1990 and has finished three months ahead of schedule," Mr. Morton said. The first tunnel between France

Bonn trying to sell eastern German firms to Japanese investors

BONN (R) — The head of the agency privatising former state-run firms in eastern Germany travels to Tokyo Sunday to try to sell the depressed region to hesitant Japanese investors. Ms. Birgit Breuel, president of the Treuhand privatisation agency, will spend four days trying to lure bankers and industrialists to invest in eastern Germany. Her appointments in Tokyo and Osaka include meetings with leaders of the Japanese Employers' Federation, the Industrial Bank of Japan and the German Chamber of Commerce in Japan. "It is extremely important for the Treuhand to find foreign investors," she told Reuters. Only five per cent of investments in the east have come from abroad since unification in October. Facing huge costs to clean up the moribund ex-communist economy, Bonn has urged its European Community partners and the United States to invest in its new eastern states. The Japanese have been very cautious. "It is highly unlikely that Breuel's visit to Japan will immediately lead to higher Japanese investment in eastern Germany," said Mr. Shigeru Matsushima, economic counsellor at the Japanese Embassy in Bonn. "But it will spur interest," he said. "When it comes to major investment, companies are very careful. They first need to accumulate information," he pointed out. Japanese companies complain that they are cold-shouldered by the Treuhand and have received little information about eastern Germany. Firms from other European countries have also accused the agency of favouring west German investors. Ms. Breuel rejected this criticism, saying: "foreigners are getting equal or even favoured treatment here." Mr. Tatsuhiko Yagishita, chief representative in Berlin of Nomura Securities Co. Ltd., played down fears that all the best opportunities had already been taken by German companies. "If firms like Siemens or Daimler-Benz are ahead, that doesn't necessarily mean to us that the ones that are left are not so good. You can find very good medium-sized firms," he said. For Ms. Breuel's trip to Japan, the agency has printed its first brochure in English — "how to buy a company in east Germany." It plans to open an office in New York later this year and is also considering setting up shop

East European trade group formally buried Former Comecon members fail to find new forms of cooperation

BUDAPEST (R) — Members of the trade group Comecon, formally buried Friday after 42 years of trying to integrate the economies of the Soviet Bloc, failed to agree on new forms of joint cooperation, ministers said. After the last meeting of Comecon ministers and a first meeting of a committee to share out its property Hungary's international economic relations minister, Mr. Bela Kadar, said there was no agreement on what form a new body should take. But Soviet representative, Mr. Stepan Staryan, said Moscow would encourage barter deals to revive regional trade, which has collapsed with the demise of Comecon. Mr. Kadar said cooperation between former Comecon members — the Soviet Union, its former East European satellites of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Romania and Moscow's Third World allies Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam — would henceforth be primarily on a bilateral basis. But some European countries wanted to set up a consultative body which could exchange information, although the details still had to be worked out, he told a news conference. Polish Foreign Economic Relations Minister Danusz Ledworowski said the new body should be focused on Europe. Moscow had wanted to include Mongolia, Vietnam and Cuba, nodding up agreement to dismantle Comecon earlier this year. "We need a new organisation with the task of coordinating new economies," Mr. Ledworowski said. Czechoslovak Economy Minister Vladimir Dlouhy said the new forum should be limited to countries undergoing similar economic developments — in other words the five reforming East Europeans and now possible the Soviet Union. Mr. Dlouhy, who said ministers would hold the first informal talks on setting up the new body later said the new organisation should exchange information on economic reform and provide a joint approach for joining the European Community (EC). Earlier, in a brief 15-minute ceremony, ministers signed Comecon out of existence. The organisation will formally cease to operate 90 days from now, at the end of September. A liquidation committee was set up, chaired by Mr. Kadar, to share out Comecon property, including its headquarters in central Moscow, where office space is at a premium. Trade in the region as a whole could fall by 30 to 50 per cent this year after shrinking by 20 to 30 per cent in 1990. Western economists believe. But Czechoslovakia's Dlouhy insisted that there were no regrets about Comecon, which had been unable to meet the challenges of changing economic circumstances. "I believe that Comecon was a dead body, and it's right that it had to come to an end," he said.



Birgit Breuel

in Tokyo. Mr. Makoto Kimura, director of industrial cooperation at the Japanese External Trade Organisation (JETRO) in Düsseldorf, said: "Japanese companies have a wait-and-see attitude. But the situation will change. Moving Sony Europe to Berlin is a sign of changing Japanese attitudes." The Japanese home electronics group, with a current European base in Cologne, was the first foreign multinational to decide to move its European headquarters to Berlin after parliament voted last week to make it Germany's future seat of government. But investing in obsolete east German companies is a different question. "Not too many companies would consider eastern Germany as a production site," Matsushima said. "There are still too many uncertainties." Mr. Yagishita said would-be Japanese investors were also shocked by the assassination last April of Ms. Breuel's predecessor, Detlev Rohwedder, by ultra-left Red Army faction guerrillas.

Winter fuel crisis looms Soviet budget deficit soars

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shcherbakov called Friday for tough steps to avert economic catastrophe, saying the budget deficit was soaring and falling oil production could lead to a fuel crisis this winter. In an interview with Radio Moscow, Mr. Shcherbakov warned of cuts in fuel supplies to cities because of dwindling stocks and the need to supply farms during the harvest period. He was speaking as the Soviet parliament approved in principle a law calling for sweeping privatisation as a means of reviving the economy and replenishing government coffers. The bill, now being debated article by article and facing stiff opposition from conservative deputies, would put about two-thirds of state enterprises in private hands by 1995. "If the situation does not improve, the budget deficit could jump to about 300 billion roubles (\$500 billion at the inflated official exchange rate)," he said. He was referring to the combined Soviet and republican budget deficit, which he said had originally been projected at 52 billion roubles (\$87 billion) for 1991. He gave no comparisons for 1990 when the Soviet deficit alone was about 58 billion roubles (\$97 billion). President Mikhail Gorbachev is due to argue his case for Western support for his economic reforms at a meeting with leaders of the world's top industrial nations in London next month. Budget discipline, largely wrecked by rebellious republics holding back contributions, will be a major plank of his reform programme. The Soviet government has already warned of impending austerity. Mr. Shcherbakov said the country had scant resources to pay for vital food imports and the situation was made worse by foreign creditors and investors steering clear of Moscow. He cited falling oil production as a major reason for hard currency shortages. Reduced Western bank deposits and lost oil production had cost the Kremlin about \$20 billion. "No state can go through that painlessly," he said. "We must prepare for bringing in the harvest and above all for preserving it," he said. The Soviet Union regularly loses up to 30 per cent of its grain crop due to transport and storage problems. Mr. Shcherbakov described preparations for winter this year as very difficult. Last year the government had to appeal for Western food aid despite a near record harvest of 218 million tonnes after processing. "The drop in oil production is really substantial," he said. "According to preliminary forecasts, stocks of fuel in cities are going to be 20 per cent less than normal." "If things continue this way, I cannot rule out very tough restrictions on petrol, kerosene and diesel fuel consumption. In some cases up to 80 per cent, to enable farm workers to bring in the harvest," he elaborated. Soviet oil output fell six per cent in 1990 to 570 million tonnes and is expected to fall to 540 million tonnes by 1995, according to unofficial Soviet estimates. Mr. Shcherbakov said the country was spending \$47 billion on social programmes — more than it would normally spend in 15 years. "We have to resort to increasing the money supply and borrowing from banks because we don't have money to pay doctors, teachers and so on."

Statistics show Japan as second largest aid donor after the U.S.

TOKYO (R) — Japan was pushed back to second place by the United States in the list of top aid donors to poor countries in 1990, but still disbursed a record amount of official development assistance, Tokyo has said. Japan boosted payments of official development assistance (ODA) to 1.34 trillion yen (\$9.24 billion) in 1990 — the highest in its ODA history — from 1.24 trillion yen (\$8.97 billion), government statistics showed. In yen terms the year-on-year increase was 8.2 per cent, but in dollars this was only 3.1 per cent because of the appreciation of the dollar against the yen in 1990. The exchange rate is set by the 18-member Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Japan became the top ODA donor in 1989 for the first time, not because it beefed up disbursements sharply but because the U.S. decreased payments to international organisations that year. In 1990 the U.S. paid out more than \$10 billion in ODA, topping the donors in the DAC. According to Japanese officials, Washington concentrated two years of contributions to international bodies in 1990. France was the third largest donor among the DAC members, paying some \$6.5 billion in 1990, the statistics showed. The figure excludes France's aid to its overseas territories. Japan's ODA disbursements in 1990 accounted for 0.31 per cent of its gross national product (GNP), little changed from 0.32 per cent in 1989 and slightly below a DAC average, but still far below a 0.7 per cent target set by the United Nations 21 years ago. Japanese officials said none of the Group of Seven Major industrialised nations — the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Canada and Italy — have ever reached the U.N. target. So far only four donor countries, with relatively small economies, have cleared the U.N. target of 0.7 per cent aid. They are Norway, Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands. "The 0.7 per cent is not such an achievable figure given Japan's high economic growth," a foreign ministry official said. Japan's accumulated ODA payments totalled \$27.3 billion between 1988/89 and 1990/91, he said.

Cinema Tel: 677420
CONCORD
LION HEART
Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144
PHILADELPHIA
Nadia Al Jundi & Mahmoud Hamida
SAVAGE WILL
Arabic
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

Cinema Tel: 675571
NIJOM
1) NINJA TURTLES
2) FORBIDDEN WIFE
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 625155
RAINBOW
THE BEACH GIRLS
Show: 3:30
REVENGE
Show: 6:30, 8:30

SECRETARY REQUIRED
A tourism Co. in Amman is in need of a full-time secretary with a minimum of one year experience in filing, typing, telefax, PC etc.
Interested applicants pls. write with brief C.V. details to:
Manager, P.O.Box 1803 — Amman

FOR SALE
The following new cars, two Isuzu Trooper, 'UBS' "DELUX" 4x4 short chassis.
Description: Model 1989; air conditioned; power steering; velvet seats; colour: white dark blue; customs duty unpaid.
Two Isuzu Trooper "UBS" standard 4x4 short chassis colour burgundy, model 1989, customs duty paid. All cars are brand new.
For more info. pls. contact tel: 677430-672495-672543

WANTED URGENTLY
Filipina or Sri Lankan housemaid to live in with small family in Cyprus.
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Los Angeles Rumors Restaurant
come and join for a candlelight dinner
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ANNOUNCEMENT
In order to expedite service, the American Embassy in Amman has established a special telephone number to provide information to citizens of Iraq regarding immigrant visa petitions. If a personal appearance at the embassy is required, an appointment will be scheduled. Please do not come to the embassy regarding an immigrant visa matter without an appointment. The special telephone number may be called Sunday thru Thursday, 0800-1200 O'clock.
The number to call is 641-954

Finland to lift some South Africa sanctions on July 1

HELSINKI (R) — Finland will lift its ban on imports from and exports to South Africa from July 1, the Foreign Ministry has said.

It said President Mauno Koivisto had signed a decree lifting the ban.

From the same date, restrictions on payments, credits and financial guarantee arrangements relating to trade with South Africa would also be lifted.

The four main apartheid laws which formed the basis for Finland's embargo on South Africa had been repealed.

But some sanctions, including a ban on investments, would remain in force pending further reform, the ministry said.

Bans on granting patents and manufacturing licences would be maintained and monetary loans, credit and financial guarantees for all purposes other than foreign trade were still forbidden.

An arms embargo under a U.N. Security Council resolution would also remain in effect.

"Progress has been made. South Africa has repealed all four of the main apartheid laws that formed the principal basis for Finland's voluntary imposition of a total embargo on South Africa," the statement said.

The repeal of further sanctions largely depended on progress in negotiations on a new South African constitution. The freeing of political prisoners and resettlement of refugees had to be accelerated and every effort

made to stop the current violence, it added.

In Paris, the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid expressed "deep disappointment" at Finland's decision.

"The special committee is particularly disappointed because Finland has a long history of solidarity with the struggling people of South Africa and has made an undeniable contribution to the international campaign against apartheid," it said.

"It would now seem that Finland is abandoning the struggle during the last crucial mile in the march towards a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa."

Committee chairman Ibrahim Gambari, Nigeria's permanent representative at the U.N., who is in Paris for an International Conference on the Educational Needs of Victims of Apartheid, issued the statement.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced Friday that he will send a fact-finding mission to South Africa in early August to look at the rapidly developing political reforms there.

Perez de Cuellar made the announcement in a letter to the General Assembly, which was expecting a report from him on South Africa's progress toward abolishing apartheid.

He postponed issuing the report until September, citing the "ongoing developments in South

Africa." Perez de Cuellar said he would send envoys to South Africa in the first half of August.

The decision to send the U.N. mission was made earlier this week, before South African President F.W. de Klerk announced Thursday that Pretoria will sign the 1970 international nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

The radical black Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) Friday welcomed South Africa's decision to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

"With the signing of this treaty, South Africa will ... end its threats to our neighbours and reverse its close cooperation in the development of nuclear weapons with the Israeli government," a statement said.

The PAC said it welcomed the treaty decision although it was an "opportunistic" move to help Pretoria break out of international isolation.

Some anti-apartheid campaigners have dismissed the decision as a propaganda ploy.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha said Thursday South Africa had decided to sign the treaty because it no longer needed to hold a "potential" nuclear deterrent over the heads of its neighbours.

He said South Africa had the ability to build a nuclear weapons but he refused to confirm or deny whether it had in fact done so. He said that to his knowledge Pretoria had not cooperated with Israel in nuclear arms technology.

Moldova calls on Moscow for solution to dispute

BUCHAREST (R) — The parliamentary president of the rebel Soviet Republic of Moldova has called for Moscow to agree to a political solution to the dispute, Bucharest Radio reported.

It quoted Alexandru Mosanu as saying: "We cannot accept (Moscow's) policy of fait accompli, according to which everything in the Soviet Union should stay the way it is now. This would mean to recognise the perpetuation of the last empire in the world."

Much of Moldova was a Romanian province until Moscow annexed the area in 1940 under a secret Nazi-Soviet pact. The republic's nationalist non-Communist leadership is pressing for independence from Moscow but has so far not spoken in favour of reunification with Romania.

The Romanian News Agency Rompres said a conference of academics and politicians in the republic's capital, Kishinev, denounced the annexation Friday.

Rompres said a statement issued after the meeting declared: "The invasion ... of Bessarabia, northern Bukovina and the county of Hertza ... was a violation of the sovereignty, integrity and independence of the Romanian state."

The Moldovan parliament called the two-day conference to mark the 51st anniversary of the annexation. Politicians and academics from 16 European nations and the United States attended it, including Romanian opposition leader Ion Ratiu and A.V. Alexandrov, an adviser to the Soviet Communist Party.

Bucharest radio said Mosanu urged a political solution to eliminate the consequences of the Nazi-Soviet agreement.

In a separate development, gunmen killed six people Friday in an attack on an Azeri village in troubled Nagorno-Karabakh, disputed between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Soviet News Agency (TASS) said.

The attackers first bombarded Karabagh with rockets and grenades for more than an hour from near an Armenian village 600 metres away, demolishing six houses and a farm.

Security forces arriving hours later found the bodies of three men and three women, badly burned and riddled with bullets from automatic weapons, TASS said.

Another woman was taken to hospital with severe burns and 130 cattle were missing.

The attackers escaped. TASS did not identify them.

But Soviet officials have blamed Armenian militants for numerous recent incidents in the enclave, which is populated mainly by Armenians but was placed under Azerbaijani jurisdiction by the Kremlin in 1923.

More than 800 people have been killed over Nagorno-Karabakh since the two trans-Caucasian republics flared up again in February 1988.

TASS said the region had been peaceful for the past two weeks. The report said the security forces had taken several hours to react to a call for help from Karabagh, 10 kilometres from the district centre of Martuni.

U.N. chief to retire at end of year

BONN (R) — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has told the German news magazine Der Spiegel he will retire at the end of this year although some Security Council members had urged him to stay on for a time.

"I am not prepared to stay on even one year longer," he said in an interview to be published Monday. The magazine released a summary in advance.

Perez de Cuellar, a 71-year-old Peruvian, has been head of the organisation for 10 years, and had been expected to retire after his second term.

He told Der Spiegel he had rejected calls from France and other Security Council members to stay on, even for a shortened

third term. He said the U.N.'s prestige had been enhanced by its handling of the Gulf war but the secretary-general should be given additional powers to help him resolve similar crises in future by diplomatic means.

"I hope that my poor successor will have more success in this than I have had," Der Spiegel quoted him as saying.

Perez de Cuellar, who begins an official visit to Germany Sunday, said one of his greatest disappointments was that he had not managed to bring about a serious dialogue between rich nations and the poor countries of the southern hemisphere.

"As long as the countries of the south are in their present condi-



Javier Perez de Cuellar, the industrial nations will be sitting on a wobbly throne," he said.

Los Angeles quake kills 2, injures 100

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — Los Angeles residents braced for severe aftershocks after an earthquake that killed two people, injured at least 100 and damaged more than 250 buildings.

Scientists at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, a few miles from the epicentre of the quake Friday which measured 6.0 on the Richter Scale, said aftershocks as high as 5.0 could be expected within 48 hours.

More than 30 aftershocks were recorded in the 12 hours following the major quake, but none was severe enough to add more damage, a spokesman for the institute said.

"The pattern we normally see is that aftershocks never reach the magnitude of the initial event but they do increase, so our current forecast is that within the next 48 hours we could see an aftershock of about 5.0," the spokesman said.

The earthquake Friday caused severe damage to homes, stores and office buildings and sent frightened people pouring into

streets. It was felt from Santa Barbara, 100 miles (160 kilometres) north of Los Angeles, to San Diego, 130 miles (208 kilometres) to the south of America's second most populous city.

City officials and insurance companies estimated damage at about \$10 million.

It has the strongest earthquake to hit Los Angeles since 61 people died when a tremor measuring 6.5 struck on February 9, 1971.

U.S. Air Force base in Greece closes

ATHENS (R) — Hellenikon U.S. Air Base, opened in 1947 in the early days of the cold war, closed Friday, the victim of U.S. budget cuts and new military strategies.

"We are ushering in a new era," base commander Arthur Egge said at the closing ceremony. "A new era in which Hellenikon is no longer required."

An honour guard marched out to lower the American flag for the last time at the base, which shared the runway at Athens International Airport. A U.S. Air Force band, flown in from Germany, played the national anthem.

The Greek Air Force officially took control of Hellenikon during the ceremony and the last 40 American servicemen will leave by Sunday.

Plans for its future are under discussion, possibly dividing facilities between the civilian airport and the Greek Air Force, and turning a sprawling area of abandoned baseball grounds and playing fields into a public park.

Hellenikon symbolised the determination of former U.S. President Harry Truman to take a tough military stand and stop Soviet-backed Communist insurgents, who were seizing countries across central Europe after World War II.

The Truman doctrine poured money and arms into Greece, turning the tide in a bloody 1946-1949 civil war which pitted Communist insurgents against a right-wing government.

In its heyday Hellenikon boasted 5,000 military personnel and their families, and joined in American military operations around the eastern Mediterranean and Middle East.

U.S. citizens were evacuated to Hellenikon in 1967 when the Arab-Israeli war broke out. It was the first stop for 52 U.S. hostages released by Iran in 1981 after being held for 444 days during the Iranian revolution.

Suspected Basque parcel-bomb kills 4

SEVILLE, Spain (R) — Four people were killed and 32 injured when a parcel bomb sent by suspected Basque separatists exploded in a prison in Seville Friday, local officials said.

The headless body of a fourth victim found in the rubble appeared to be that of another inmate.

Most of the injured were women visitors, as the five-kilogramme bomb went off as the reception area was crowded with inmates' friends and relatives.

The parcel exploded as it was being passed through a security scanner. It had been sent by courier from the city of Valladolid in northern Spain.

Six ETA men and two members of the Marxist guerrilla group Grapo held in the jail were immediately moved to another prison in Seville to avoid reprisals by inmates, officials said.

In ETA's last attack in Seville more than a year ago, a parcel bomb sent to Expo-92 organisers' offices injured a secretary.

Seville Mayor Alejandro Rojas Marcos, saying Expo was an ETA target, called the attack "total barbarity". Local unions and politicians said they planned to call a one-hour protest strike next Monday.

Ortega calls for truce among politicians

MANAGUA (R) — Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Friday accused politicians in Nicaragua's ruling National Opposition Union (UNO) of running a smear campaign against the opposition Sandinista National Liberation Front.

He said this could create the same conditions in Nicaragua that led to the country's 1979 revolution and the contra war of the 1980s.

Ortega said recent efforts by UNO conservatives to strip Sandinistas of properties they gained during the final weeks of their 10-year revolutionary government and press reports of alleged Sandinista corruption were making the local political scene increasingly volatile.

"There is an international campaign to smear the Sandinista Front," Ortega told the conference, which was also attended by former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias.

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IRA tries to blow up army band at London concert

LONDON (R) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA) narrowly failed to blow up a British military band and hundreds of civilians with a bomb which was meant to go off at a packed London concert, police said.

The device was timed to explode while the 27-man band was playing to an audience of 290 in a London theatre Thursday night, but it failed to detonate.

"If the device had exploded it would have caused multiple deaths and very serious injuries, not only to the band but to the public as well," said Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad.

He said there was no doubt the IRA carried out the attack as part of its campaign against British rule in Northern Ireland, but there was no immediate claim of responsibility.

The attack would have been a repeat of 1982 bombing by the IRA in which four bandmen from the same army regiment, the Blues and Royals, were blown up as they rode from their barracks through London's Hyde Park.

The 20-pound (10-kg) bomb was hidden in a holdall and planted against the back wall of the West London theatre near an air vent which police said would have funnelled the impact of the blast 50 metres to the stage.

It was found early Friday by a woman out walking her dog and was later defused. Police said the bomb could have failed because of a technical fault.

Rao government expects to win vote of confidence

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's minority government will face a confidence vote when India's newly-elected parliament convenes on July 9, and believes it will obtain the opposition support needed to win.

"We are absolutely confident of getting help from our opposition friends," said Welfare Minister Sitaram Kesari, a senior cabinet figure.

Kesari said differences between the government and opposition over India's quest for a \$2 billion IMF loan, a major issue when parliament meets, would be sorted out through discussions.

"We have differences, but not to the extent that we disagree," Kesari told Reuters.

The right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, the largest opposition party, has said it will vote against the government in the confidence motion.

Kesari said the government was looking to help from a Marxist-Left Front and Central Janata Dal Party to win the vote, whose exact date has yet to be set.

An official announcement said the Lok Sabha (lower house) would meet to discuss the annual budget from July 9. Congress Party sources said the session was expected to continue until Sept. 13.

Rao's Congress Party and its allies, claiming a strength of 240, will be 15 short of majority in the house which will be 503 strong when four pending results are announced.

The new Lok Sabha was due to have 543 members but polls were not held in the troubled states of Jammu and Kashmir (six seats) and Punjab (13 seats).

The election commission cancelled polls for 13 seats because of the deaths of candidates or electoral violence, two members won in two places each and must vacate one of them and the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi means his seat must also be repolled.

Kesari said Rao's minority government would get the help of the opposition "through negotiations, cooperation and on issues."

All the opposition parties have

rule in Northern Ireland, but there was no immediate claim of responsibility.

The attack would have been a repeat of 1982 bombing by the IRA in which four bandmen from the same army regiment, the Blues and Royals, were blown up as they rode from their barracks through London's Hyde Park.

The 20-pound (10-kg) bomb was hidden in a holdall and planted against the back wall of the West London theatre near an air vent which police said would have funnelled the impact of the blast 50 metres to the stage.

It was found early Friday by a woman out walking her dog and was later defused. Police said the bomb could have failed because of a technical fault.

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Bhutto's party says government tried to rig by-election

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — Pakistan's opposition People's Party accused the Sind government Saturday of trying to rig an important by-election for the provincial assembly.

Voters were being threatened and prevented from reaching the polling stations in southern Jacobabad, Iqbal Haider, spokesman for the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), said.

"The security forces have cordoned off almost all polling booths in Jacobabad by-election today," he told reporters.

A spokesman for the Election Commission called the charge "absurd."

PPP leader Benazir Bhutto is supporting Abdul Hafeez Pirzada, secretary general of the Pakistan National Party, against a government-supported candidate.

The election is seen as a major test of strength between Bhutto and Sind Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali, who has overseen the arrests of hundreds of PPP activists since the assassination of a judge in Karachi last week.

Voting also began Saturday for the regional legislature in the one-third of Kashmir ruled by Pakistan.

The Azad (Free) Kashmir government based in Muzaffarabad was the last regional administration fully ruled by Bhutto's PPP after her humiliating defeat in national and provincial elections last October.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting from Azad Kashmir a bloody Muslim uprising in its Jammu and Kashmir state and arming the militant gunmen who slip back and forth across the mountains of the divided region.

More than 13,000 police and paramilitary troops were deployed across Azad Kashmir to prevent polling violence, government officials said.

The Azad Kashmir legislature was the only provincial assembly to survive last August when President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dismissed Ms. Bhutto's 20-month administration on charges of corruption and political ineptitude.

She and her party were overwhelmingly defeated in general elections last October.

The semi-autonomous nature of Azad Kashmir made it constitutionally impossible for Ishaq Khan to dissolve that assembly, dominated by Ms. Bhutto's party.

Last March, Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Muntaz Rathore voluntarily dissolved the assembly and called fresh elections, hoping to win a majority. He has been heading a coalition government.

His strongest opponent, the Muslim Conference, is solidly backed by the governing Islamic coalition, the Islamic Democratic Alliance.

A peaceful but dull month-long election campaign contradicted earlier predictions by Pakistani analysts of a lively and possibly violent contest.

The nation's feuding leaders, anxious to stop the killing, may also be blaming uncontrollable army hotbeds so that themselves will not appear to make concessions in negotiations for peace.

Many considered the bombing Friday of Slovenia's main airfield and sortie of tanks and soldiers Thursday that left 17 people wounded in a Croatian town to be reckless action that went beyond army orders to secure Yugoslavia's borders with Austria and Italy.

The orders themselves left room for abuse. In the absence of a functioning collective federal presidency, which normally acts as commander of the armed forces, the federal government

gave the order to retake the borders.

According to informed Croatian sources, the initial force that moved against Slovenia early Thursday consisted of only about 2,000 soldiers, 300 federal police, 200 federal customs officers and about 80 tanks.

Reinforcements arrived later. Federal authorities insisted they "acted with maximum restraint" and did not return fire until they came under attack from Slovenia's forces.

"We have so many forces and equipment deployed that we could have blown them away easily had we wanted to," said a Yugoslav army colonel who asked not to be named, speaking before Friday's ceasefire.

"But we have strict orders to restrict our actions to taking over the border crossing points and to avoid engaging the Slovenes at almost any cost," he added.

Slovenia's leaders, who proclaimed sovereignty Tuesday, called the army move "occupation."

But even the republic's defence minister, Janez Jansa, seemed

prepared to allow that the army might have acted outside orders.

He noted that the army had been left without a commander since mid-May, when the dispute between Serbia and Croatia over who should head the federal presidency left the body without a leader.

"That's when the script for everything was made" by army officers, Jansa said on television Thursday.

Croatian sources said Defence Minister Gen. Veljko Kadijevic gave no hint the army would act with such force when Croatian President Franjo Tudjman dined with him in Belgrade last Friday.

The Croats and Slovenes have long suspected that primary resistance to their independence drives came from Gen. Blagoje Adzic, the hardline Serb chief of staff.

Stipe Mesic, the Croat whose turn to assume the rotating chairmanship of the federal presidency has been blocked by Serbia, promised an investigation to establish which officers were to blame for actions taken by the Slovenia bulk of the army.</